

Battling the Snowstorm

by fanfictionmakermachine

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Summary: Arendelle was a small, weak, insignificant kingdom in the past, but it endured the trials of time. Centuries later, a new ruler rises, blessed by the winter. She will honor her ancestors, she will fulfill her destiny, she will make her kingdom great beyond anyone's expectations. And she will crush anyone who gets in her way. Image by NoLDawn on Deviantart.

1. Storms of the Past

****A.N.:** I decided to put this to the HTTYD-Frozen crossovers. It was originally Brave-Frozen, but nobody was reading it there!**

****OK,** first of all, I would like to apologize to everyone who found my Dragon Island trailer appealing, because they will be disappointed. I just lost my inspiration with that story, so sorry, but I can't do it. I know this isn't the first time I promise you a story and give you something else. I promise you, it won't happen again.**

****This** will be an original Big Four fanfic, but Elsa will have an important role too. Though, she will be kind of OOC. Maybe kind of doesn't exactly fit it. I think it would describe it the best if I said this story will be in the community I have created.**

****Before** you begin, some important things you need to know. This story takes place after HTTYD 2, Brave and Tangled. Jack Frost is there too, but I can't say it takes place after ROTG, since that takes place in modern times. As for Frozen: it's a few weeks after Elsa's coronation. Eternal winter didn't happen, Anna doesn't know of her powers.**

****Alright,** let's get started.**

****Prologue:** Storms of the Past**

The Kingdom of Dunbroch was a small, but still remarkable country, lying at the northern parts of the British Isles, the Scottish Highlands. Dunbroch has stood for centuries as the mightiest of the Scottish kingdoms. Not because of it's strength, but because of it's endurance. The kingdom has withstood it's enemies and was willing to fight until the last man standing. And that was the reason Dunbroch managed to survive through the centuries and that was what gave it's people the hope of the future.

In the North, there are several threats that can endanger a kingdom. The weather for example was harsh even in the summers. The winters were even worse. The harshest winters often took many lives everywhere. And of course as everywhere, there were raiders, pirates and even a few viking tribes, that were still around, even after almost a thousand years of their golden age. Some of them were actually peaceful, well as peaceful as a viking tribe could get, but most of them were still really fond of the old viking ways of raiding kingdoms, and their methods were still quite effective. Not as much as back in the old times, but a viking army was still fearful in many northern kingdoms.

But the greatest threat a kingdom could face is a war. War is often described as hell on earth and for a good reason. Especially for a kingdom like the ones in the North. Despite the fact that the Nordic kingdoms were mostly peaceful, that wasn't always like that. There were two major kingdoms in the North, Corona and Arendelle. Both of them were ruled by beloved pairs of a king and a queen. Corona was ruled by King Thomas and Queen Primrose, while Arendelle's King and Queen were Agdar and Idunn.

Under their rules, these two kingdoms were blossoming. There were no wars or crime sprees. The people absolutely adored them and they treated every subject fair. For the goods they have done in their lives, they were rewarded with beautiful baby princesses. Corona was throwing one of it's biggest parties in it's history, when Princess Rapunzel was born. Arendelle had two of these, because three years after Princess Elsa was born, Princess Anna followed. Their roles in this story however will only be important later. For now, our main focus is Dunbroch and Arendelle, for these two kingdoms share a troublesome past.

Before the reign of King Agdar and Queen Idunn, Arendelle's rulers included some, who were not as kindhearted or loving as them. Our story begins in 1823. Arendelle was founded four hundred years before that. The first ruler was King Johann, who wished for his kingdom to have status in the North. To achieve this goal, he married Princess Maria of Dunbroch, thus making an alliance between the two kingdoms. However, since their marriage was arranged, it was loveless. Maria hated her husband for taking away her freedom and taking her away from her country, so when the time has come for them to produce an heir, it didn't exactly go smoothly. Maria could only bring herself to give birth to one child from Johann. The child was a boy, he was named Leopold.

Just like his father, the prince was also shunned by his mother, only his father gave him any form of parental affection. So, when King Johann passed away in his life's 51st year, the prince took it really hard. The Queen's hatred of her husband was not a big secret by that time, rumors have started to spread about her killing him, so she

could rule alone and lead the kingdom to ruins, before returning to Dunbroch. Even though these were just rumors, Prince Leopold has become so wary of his mother, that they were enough for him.

Princess Maria was soon arrested for murder and treason, which was of course punishable by death, Leopold wanted her to suffer more. So as an attempt to get back at her, he broke the alliance with Dun'broch, and he declared war on his mother's home country, with the sole purpose of annihilating it. Though his kingdom was still small, the military force of Arendelle was slowly beginning to become adequate for such a task.

But he didn't take the incredible battle spirit of the Scotts to account. The army of Dunbroch was smaller than Arendelle's, but they fought fiercely. It took about one month to get a significant force to the Scottish grounds, and they were suffering heavy losses. After three months of bloodshed, the Prince of Arendelle saw that he had started a campaign he cannot hope to win, so he offered his enemy a deal: He will return the former Queen Maria of Arendelle to them as an offer of peace, Dunbroch accepted, thus ending the first war between these two kingdoms.

After that, things started to settle down. Leopold became the new King, found himself a queen and ruled without any more serious affairs. Things have been peaceful in the North for three generations, though the grudge between Arendelle and Dunbroch was still there.

In 1604, King Erik took the throne of Arendelle. He was considered a fair ruler, but he wasn't ashamed to let it be known among his subjects that he had big ambitions. One of them included finally taking Dunbroch. One day an opportunity to do so arose before him, which was simply too good to pass up.

Apparently, local viking tribes have been trying to find a way to annihilate that nation, and pride as vikings may be, even they had to realize they need allies to do so. And Arendelle seemed the perfect choice. Knowing about the tension between the two kingdoms, they realized that it only needed a spark to explode. King Eric was given an offer he couldn't refuse, in exchange of an alliance and military assist in their campaign against Dunbroch, they can have the land.

The people of Arendelle less then happy about joining forces with such unpredictable allies as the vikings, but they knew how fierce warriors they were and with the combined force of their armies, they would have a much better chance against the Scotts.

But once again, they didn't take something to account. They were not the only ones who made alliances. Once all of the clans in the Highlands knew about their enemy's union, they all joined forces to protect the land. Arendelle may have just wanted Dunbroch, but none of them wanted the vikings to take any advantage in the Highlands.

This time the war lasted a lot longer and it was more bloody than the first one. For almost a year, the bloodshed just kept going on in Scotland, nonstop. With the help of the vikings, the armies of Arendelle were only an inch away from victory, due to the brute

strength of the viking warriors and the tactical brilliance of the officers from Arendelle. But they were once again overwhelmed by the spirit and determination of the Scotts and were defeated in a brutal battle, which also cost the life of King Erik.

After the war, Hell broke loose in Arendelle. Not only their king died on a foreign battlefield, but their military was pretty much completely annihilated in Dunbroch. The people were afraid that the kingdoms around them would not miss an opportunity to take a completely defenseless kingdom to annex them into themselves, and getting an ally to call for to help them would be almost impossible, seeing as most of the kingdoms wasn't really fond of them, after they helped the vikings attack Dunbroch. As for the vikings, there were two reasons they were out of the questions, first of all, they weren't exactly the most loyal and reliable allies you can have, secondly, they also suffered

heavy losses in Scotland.

In the chaos, one day however emerged a mysterious man, who claimed to bring order back to the kingdom. He was rather dubious man, a shadowy figure in a cloak, who called himself Richard. He moved into the royal palace in Arendelle, which was now empty. He was happy he managed to claim it before the anarchists did, as they unfortunately started to grow in numbers and were running amok in the kingdom, due to the chaotic state. Richard held public speeches, in which he spoke about his plans on not only rebuilding Arendelle, but also making it stronger, than ever before and gain status, that not only the North, but the whole world will respect.

Most people didn't believe him at first, but he had a certain aura around him that made him really convincing. As he stood on the balcony of the castle, talking to the people, he looked so sure in himself and spoke with such charisma, that he eventually convinced everyone that he meant business. In order to make the kingdom rise from it's ashes, he would need to create order in it first. He recruited members into his group of royal guards and set out to eradicate the rising crime rate and the anarchists who started to become more and more of a problem, due to the chaos in the kingdom. It didn't seem that this small group would be successful in that, but Arrendelians were famous of their intelligence and cunning. Richard was no exception and he organized the group really well. So well, that in merely two months, the last of the opposing force was taken care of.

After that, the people of Arendelle were astonished to see Richard and his Royal Guards achieving such a thing, so quickly, Richard used it to inspire the people and use their help to rebuild the kingdom. Men, women and even some children worked together to clear the streets and rebuild everything. In less then half a year, the kingdom was rebuilt and the people were so impressed with Richard, that they declared him their new king.

Now that the inner order was insured, Arendelle also needed protection as they were still lacking military strength and were completely defenseless against outside forces, they didn't have time to properly establish an army. And Richard once again defied the odds, by managing to convince the King and Queen of Corona in a letter to pay a visit to Arendelle to discuss a possible alliance.

Not only that, he also managed to persuade them to actually agree to an alliance and insure Arendelle's protection. Most people considered it as the result of his charisma, but seeing how quickly royal pair agreed, when it was clear they were reluctant to even come to Arendelle, some people weren't convinced. It was by that time, that rumors have taken wings about Richard. He was a rather secluded man, he spent hours inside the castle dungeons, no one really knew what he was doing down there.

People started whispering about Richard secretly practicing the art of sorcery, and that was the reason of him accomplishing such tasks in so little time. Some more paranoid rumors have started to suggest that he was trying to cast a spell on the kingdom to insure his power.

Shortly after, these rumors were proven to be true " at least the ones implying sorcery " when a plague hit most of the Nordic kingdoms. People were dying all around the North, and when the plague hit Arendelle, Richard used a special potion to not only cure the people, but to make them immune to it. Two surrounding kingdoms, Weselton and the Southern Isles were intrigued to know why the arendelians became immune to it and sent delegates to Arendelle, but Richard didn't let them in. He didn't want to share the secrets with any other kingdoms.

But the delegates couldn't leave without finding a potential cure for the plague. So one night, they bribed a corrupt member of the royal guards to let them in. They put on disguises and looked for Richard, whom they found in the throne room, using his potion on people who were still infected. Taking advantage of not being recognized by the man, they stole a bottle of the potion and got out of the kingdom, undetected.

Once Richard discovered that he had been robbed of such an important thing, he was enraged, which wasn't really like him, as he was a calm and collected man, so once the royal guards were gathered on the courtyard and saw their ruler so infuriated, they knew something was off. The king angrily demanded who was the one who allowed someone to sneak in and steal something so important to Arendelle. At first, none of them answered. So Richard used a special spell upon them to make the traitor reveal himself. When that happened, he ordered the others to arrest him and to bring him to the town square at noon. He then gathered the people on the square and held a violent public execution to show people how Arendelle dealt with traitors.

A few days after that, soldiers from a few surrounding kingdoms appeared in Arendelle, accompanied by some important ecclesiastical figures who charged Richard with sorcery after they examined his strange, unknown potion and ordered him to surrender to them, or they burn Arendelle down. Even though the kingdom still didn't have a significant military force to resist with, the royal guards who swore loyalty to the king and the citizens who were grateful to him for his services were more than willing to protect him to their death and even the Coronan allies were willing to offer help, Richard gave in to their demands, saying he didn't want his people to perish pointlessly.

King Richard of Arendelle was burnt at the stake for sorcery on October 19th, 1623. Before the flames engulfed him, his final words

were spoken to his people, his final words that would later become a legend in Arendelle. A prophecy.

"People of Arendelle, mark my words! Our kingdom will not be at the mercy of others for long! A ruler will come! A ruler blessed with a power from the gods that will make him or her unstoppable! A ruler who will make this kingdom the strongest in the North, and will crush anyone who dares to oppose her!"

And those were his final words. With these words, he foretold the arrival of a ruler who will bring Arendelle glory. Glory it never had before. Most people dismissed it as a delusion of a broken man in his final moments, but then something unthinkable happened. Richard's burned, unrecognizable body started to turn into some white energy, that shot towards the sky. As more and more of this energy started to gather on the sky, it started to take on the form of an enormous snowflake on the sky to everyone's shock, wonder, and terror. As the body completely dissolved into energy, the last of it joined the rest on the sky and the snowflake exploded, bringing a harsh winter to every kingdom in the north that year.

Two hundred years have passed since then, two hundred years and this has become nothing more than an urban legend. The king after Richard ordered everyone in Arendelle to never speak of the "happening to anyone in the younger generations. Talking of it was a crime punishable by death. However there were still some whisperings about "King Richard's prophecy." and even after two hundred years, there were still people who believed in it. Who believed that one day, a ruler would arrive with King Leopold's fierceness, King Erik's ambitiousness and King Richards cunning and intelligence, with powers that would make him or her unstoppable to make Arendelle strong. After two hundred years, this still hasn't happened, but even after two hundred years, the prophecy lived.

In 1820, King Agdar and Queen Idunn of Arendelle passed away in a storm on the sea. With their death their eldest daughter, Princess Elsa would take the throne, but only in three years, when she became old enough to be crowned. In 1823, she became 21. The July of 1823 was the date when Queen Elsa's reign would begin.

A.N.: I don't know what to say guys, I realize this prologue didn't have anything to do with the Big Four fandom, but I promise the next one will. It wasn't easy to make up some fake history for Arendelle and a legend that would speak of a ruler with powers. It kinda felt odd writing this, but I hope you like it.

I have lately realized that the animated movies of Brave and Frozen are getting a lot of hate, that really saddens me. Why do you think it's happening. Anyway, I hope you like this prologue, next chapter will feature Elsa and the royal family from Brave. Read and Review, please. Thank you. This is fanfictionmakermachine, signing out, peace!

2. The Calm Before the Storm

A.N.: Back for the second chapter. Hope you like it.

There is one thing, I find necessary to tell you: I will not write the Scottish accent of Merida and her family for two reasons:

****I live in Hungary, so I saw the movie in Hungarian.****

****Even if I saw it in English, with the accent, I don't think I could get it right.****

****But I hope you still like it.****

****Chapter 1: The Calm Before the Storm****

Being located in the northern parts of Europe, Dunbroch always had a rather chilly climate, even during the summers. The end of July was nearing and it was barely above 16 degrees, which was unusual. Even in the North. The usual summer temperature in Dunbroch was around 22-23 degrees. Not only that, but the sun, which was used to warm the land " even if only slightly - was covered by the fairly overcast sky and there was a chilling wind hovering over the entire kingdom.

But there was something different about this wind. It wasn't only stinging the faces of everyone it came across and sending shivers down on their spines, but it was also carrying a feeling of misgiving with itself and it also gave it to every people in the kingdom. It was like this wind was foreshadowing an event that would soon take place in the Scottish kingdom and this wind was the predictor of that event.

Feelings like this were usually far from troubling Princess Merida. The heir to the throne of Dunbroch was not one to bother with such gut feelings, but when she was awoken from her sleep by this chilling, foreshadowing wind that morning, even she had to admit to herself she had a bad feeling about this day. Even though, she did not really have things to complain about nowadays. Her life finally went into a direction she wanted it to go.

Ever since that bear incident, which she and her mother finally managed to get over and forget after a year, she and her mother, Queen Elinor finally made amends and fixed their troubled relationship. The Queen finally understood how much her daughter wished to be free and Merida also understood that as the crown princess of the kingdom, she had her duties that she can't abandon. Ever since then, the two came to understand each other better it made it easier for them to tolerate the other's behavior. Merida still had her escapades to the woods to do archery and other not so ladylike stuff, but she also had her fair share of her mother's lectures. Elinor also understood her daughter was a free spirit and there was nothing she could possibly do to change that, so she respected it and gave Merida more freedom than before, but she still educated her in the way of a princess and she still got rather upset when her husband or her daughter put her weapons on the table. Yeah, some things never change.

But Merida didn't mind. Now that she and her mother started seeing eye to eye she was certain that her life was finally on the right tracks. So when she woke up, she simply brushed it off and got ready for her day. This day would be a big one for her, her family and her kingdom. Well, definitely her family and her kingdom. The freshly crowned Queen of Arendelle was coming to Dunbroch to deal with some political matters.

To Merida, Arendelle wasn't saying a lot. As the princess of Dunbroch, she was well-aware of the bad history these two kingdoms shared, but she also knew that in the recent years, the kingdoms' relationship improved greatly. She had met King Adgar and Queen Idunn before and she knew they were righteous rulers. They did everything within their powers to fix the relationship between the two kingdoms and she had no doubts that their daughter will follow their ways.

However, Merida could not shake off the feeling of some suspicion about this mysterious new Queen. In Arendelle, the word was that she was extremely seclusive and spent most of her childhood and teenage years in her castle, which was locked down when she was eight. It was reopened a while ago after her coronation, but Merida found it strange that after all those years of isolating herself, she suddenly just decide to open her palace and give Dunbroch a visit. Her parents seemed to ignore this fact. They seemed pleased about Queen Elsa visiting them.

But the Queen would only arrive in the afternoon hours, that left Merida some free time to spend as she pleased. Elinor had to spend this day with preparing everything for the Queen's arrival, which meant no lessons for her today. So her plans included the usual routine: grabbing some breakfast, hopping on Angus to ride into the woods, do some archery, exploring and other unladylike stuff.

Upon making her way into the dining room, she wasn't even surprised to see that her mother wasn't even there. She probably went to make sure everything was perfect for the by the time Queen Elsa arrives. After taking her usual amount of breakfast from the kitchen, she settled down at the table, where her father and younger brothers were sitting at.

"Good morning, Merida." her father, King Fergus of Dunbroch greeted her with his usual cheerful grin. "You slept in today, you know." he said, referring to the fact that her daughter recently started to adapt to the waking with the sun thing her mother talked to her about.

"I take every second of sleep I can get. When mum's not pestering me with her lessons, I can finally get some." she said. She then looked over her little brothers Hubert, Harris and Hamish, not liking the look they were giving her. Those three were always up to no good. She started to dig in her breakfast, not paying attention to the things going on around her.

When she finished, she was about reached for some sweets she hoped to top off her breakfast with, only to find that they were gone. She looked back to her brothers seeing them happily chewing on the cakes that were supposed to be hers. The little thieves must have taken them from under the table while she was busy devouring her breakfast.

Merida sighed in annoyance. "You know that our deal of you getting my dessert for a year is over, right?" Instead of her brothers, the response she got was laughter from her father.

"I told you she won't notice it!" Merida was shocked to see her father partaking in one of her brothers' scheme.

"Dad, how could you?!" she yelled at him in shock. He just chuckled in response.

"Oh, come on, Merida, you won't die from eating a little less. I really don't know how can you eat so much and stay in such a great shape." he said. Merida crossed her arms and leaned back in her chair with a huff. Her father stood up. "Now, I have to go and help your mother with the preparations for Queen Elsa's arrival." and with that, he left the room to find his wife.

Merida turned to her little brothers with a light glare. "I hate you guys, I hope you know that." They only nodded, knowing she didn't really mean it, then stood up and fled the room, leaving Merida to herself. Merida sighed again, shaking her head with a smile, knowing she could never hate them "even though, sometimes she felt like she could try.

With her breakfast finished, Merida stood up and left for the stables. While walking towards the castle's exit, she saw the maids working extremely hard to get the castle in top shape. Merida didn't remember ever seeing Maudie move so fast, not even when she was running from her mother in her bear form. Just before exiting the gate, she heard her mother's voice calling for her.

"Merida!" she turned around to see her mother, Queen Elinor of Dunbroch walking towards her. "Where are you going? The Queen of Arendelle could be here anytime. I don't want her to think that our family is so disrespectful that we are not here to greet her when she arrives." Merida sighed. Her mother always wanted to make everything perfect. Nothing less than that was satisfying to her.

"Mum, it's okay. She only will arrive in the afternoon, it's not even noon yet. I'm just going out for a while." she tried to convince her, but seeing her expression didn't soften a bit, she could tell she wasn't doing a very good job at it.

"Couldn't you stay and help me with getting this place ready?" Elinor tried desperately to convince her daughter to stay and help her with some royal duties for once, but she had a feeling that no matter how hard she tries, her efforts will be in vain.

"Mum, we talked about this." Merida told her. Elinor sighed, aware of that she lost this argument.

"Fine, but please promise me you will be back by the time she arrives." Merida smiled, glad that she got her mother to soften on her.

"You have my word, your majesty." she said on a regal voice that Elinor was teaching her. The Queen chuckled at this.

"That was actually really good. You're finally learning something." Merida rolled her eyes at his. Her mother chuckled and ruffled her mess of a hair. "Alright, off you go. But please, try not to turn anyone into a bear while you are out there."

"Oh, come on, mum! That only happened once!" Merida joked as she walked away from her. She walked to the castle stables where Angus greeted her cheerfully.

"Hey, boy! Ready for our morning routine?" she asked with a bright smile. The horse whined loudly as if voicing his agreement. Merida giggled and hopped onto her horse and rode out straight to the woods.

* * *

><p>Meanwhile close to the shores of Dunbroch, three ships were sailing towards the Scottish kingdom under the banner of Arendelle. The main ship, which was surprisingly the smallest was between the other two ships, which were big enough to easily carry a battalion of soldiers. But their passengers were only the Royal Guards of Arendelle. The Queen's personal bodyguards who were loyal only to her and took orders from her only. The Queen was confident that Dunbroch would not take it a hostility if she would arrive with that many armed men. After all, she didn't have any intention of using them in any aggressive actions against Dunbroch and the King and Queen had no reason to believe otherwise.<p>

Said Queen, Elsa of Arendelle was currently sitting in her cabin, preparing herself for the boarding in Dunbroch. She was finishing her hair in front of the mirror. Finishing, she stood up to take a look at herself, quiet satisfied with her look. She was wearing her coronation dress, she really liked that one. She did her hair in the exact same fashion as it was at her coronation ball too. She was surprised to admit that she thought she looked really good that day.

Just when she was done, there was a knock on her cabin's door. "Enter!" she called. One of her royal guards who was currently with her on her ship entered.

"Milady, we will arrive to Dunbroch in about twenty minutes." he informed her. Elsa smiled.

"Thank you. I assume they won't mind if we arrive a little earlier than expected." she mused as she sat down in her chair. "Now leave, and alert me immediately when we docked." she ordered.

"Of course, Milady." said the guard, then bowed slightly and left. Elsa smiled to herself and sat back in her chair. She looked at herself in the mirror, as she started to pondering about the many things that had changed in the past few weeks. She was now the Queen of Arendelle and she couldn't kept hiding in her room, she had a duty to her people and she was more than willing to fulfill those duties. The castle of Arendelle was reopened and the kingdom was open to other kingdoms as well. She no longer hid in her room like in the past thirteen years. Even though, this would be her first trip to another kingdom and she was a little nervous. But she knew she couldn't allow it to herself. She had to be strong, she was traveling to Dunbroch with a mission to her kingdom and she had to concentrate on it.

She was sitting in the cabin, alone. It was rather strange to sit in a room, all alone without being constantly bugged by her sister. Elsa almost missed her singing outside, begging for her to go out and build a snowman. _Almost._ In the past thirteen years, the silence in her room nearly drove her mad. Now she found it relaxing and calming. Elsa couldn't help but scoff at the thought of her sister.

_ 'All you know is how to shut people out!' _ it echoed in her mind. Her sister actually had the nerve to throw it in her face. The memory made her hands clenching into fists. Her attention was only brought back to reality when she heard something crash on the floor. She opened her eyes and saw a glass that she was drinking from earlier shattered on the ground, due to a sudden burst of wind that suddenly entered the room from her cabin window.

Seeing this, Elsa decided to calm herself and concentrate on her mission in Dunbroch. She has to keep herself together, she can't lose the grip on herself. For now, that is. She must have been dazing out for a little longer than she thought, because a couple moments later her guard reported to her that they have arrived to Dunbroch. She smiled to herself. She reached for the last part of her accessories, a pair of gloves. She slowly pulled them on and whispered to herself. "Conceal, don't feel. Don't let it show. Wait for the right moment and then let it go."

* * *

><p>"Oh, come on! I don't believe it!" The irritated cries of Princess Merida echoed through the forest as she missed her target for the umpteenth time that day. It's not that her archery skills reduced recently, it was this damn wind that was blowing today. If Merida didn't have a reason to be concerned about it, she certainly had one now.<p>

Angus noticed his rider's annoyance and went closer to her and gently nudged the back of her head as an effort to cheer her up. This action seemed to work, as the girl looked up at her horse with a smile, but her face went back into a frown as she once again felt the wind on her face. She scoffed.

"Let's go home, Angus, this isn't our day." She sulked. "Come to think of it, maybe we better go before a storm breaks out."

"_Storm!" _The princess widened her eyes and turned to the direction where the croak came from. She looked up and saw a strangely familiar looking crow sitting on a branch above her. It took Merida a moment to realize it, but a moment later it clicked. This was that woodcarving witch's crow. Merida was fairly surprised to see it here. She hopped on Angus to get a closer look of the bird.

"What are you doing here?" she wondered out loud. The crow just stared at her with those big eyes and croaked again. "_Storm!" _the crow flew away from the branch, only to sit down on another one near to it. After it sat down, it continued to stare at Merida. Merida wondered what could the bird's business be with her, but then she slowly came to a realization.

"Do you want me to... follow you?" the crow just croaked again, as if in agreement and flew away. Merida was hesitant. The crow would most likely lead her back to the witch's cottage and she didn't plan to return there anytime soon. But curiosity once again got the better of her and she told Angus to follow the bird. "Let's go, Angus!" The horse looked hesitant, but obliged.

They followed the crow for a while and just as Merida expected, the bird led them to the witch's cottage. The crow flew in on the window,

leaving the princess to wonder what was going on. Judging by the many creepily unusual thing happening today, something wrong going on. And if magic was involved, there was something SERIOUSLY wrong going on.

"Wait for me here, Angus." she instructed her horse and slowly walked to the door. Merida wasn't sure if she should get into some magical again, but if the witch was seeking her out with her bird, she must have had a really good reason to do so. With a sigh, she entered.

She was surprised that she didn't see hundreds of small bear figures carved out of wood all around the place. In fact, she was in the cottage witch was used by the witch to cast her spells. Merida slowly entered and looked around for her. And it didn't take her long to find her sitting in a chair, nervously working on another carving. Merida raised an eyebrow.

"Uh, hello." she greeted her. Upon hearing her voice, the witch looked up and upon seeing her, her expression went from nervous to happy.

"Oh, you came. Thank God!" she exclaimed. "You are just the person I needed to see." she said as she went back to her carving.

"And why did you need to see me?" Merida asked, having a bad feeling about the answer she will give her.

"Don't tell me you didn't notice it, dear." she smiled. "Surely you saw the signs." Merida was utterly lost by this point.

"What are you talking about, what signs? You're not making any sense!" she complained. The Witch's eyes suddenly widened as she realized something.

"Oh, of course. You have to be experienced with magic to feel it!" she said to herself, causing Merida to frown.

"Well, I had enough experience with magic to last a lifetime. So get to the point, before I get tired of this and leave."

"Oh, hold your horses, dear!" The Witch shouted as she stood up from her chair, making Merida jump slightly. "Oh, young people these days! But back in my days..." she walked to a bookshelf by the wall and pulled out a thick book. Merida watched her bringing it to a table in front of them and put it down. "I can feel it in my bones. The wind, the cold." she mumbled as she searched through the pages of the book. "There is a storm coming, princess" she said, confusing Merida even more. She sighed in relief as she apparently found the pages she was looking for. "There was a prophecy, if I remember correctly about two thousand years ago. It was about a ruler, a ruler who would wield vast magical powers in order to bring a kingdom to greatness, ruthlessly destroying everyone who would stand in the way." Merida looked at the pages in the book, which showed her the picture of a land covered in snow. The Witch switched to the next page, which showed an enormous ice castle, towering above the lands and the mountains. "Only the bravest of hearts can possibly withstand such a foe." she finished as she closed the book. "The prophecy got buried in the sand of time, dear. There are only a few people knowing about it." Merida raised an eyebrow.

"I don't understand! What prophecy, what foe? Why are you telling me this?" the witch smiled.

"Like I said, only the bravest of heart can withstand such a foe. And you are one of the bravest people I know. If this prophecy comes true, our precious kingdom will fall under a terrible curse, which will bring darkness and cold. And that's really bad for business." Merida decided that she will end this conversation here.

"Okay. I think you have breathed in too much of your magical potions today. Now, I have to get back to my family to greet a royal guest with them or my mum will kill me. Later" she headed to the door, but the Witch stopped her.

"Don't be stupid, little girl. Haven't you listened to what I just told you?"

"I am not frightened by myths and legends. If this prophecy is real, then find another brave heart to deal with it, I've had my fair share of your magical businesses." Merida told her harshly. The witch frowned at her. She grabbed her hand and put something in it.

"Mark my words, princess." she said as she walked away from her. "There is a storm coming." Merida sighed and walked out of the cottage. Outside, she raised her hand to see what the witch gave her. It was another carving of wood, but it was not bear, or anything she saw the Witch carve before. It was the carving of a snowflake.

****A.N.:** I feel like this chapter is a little rushed, but I hope it meets your expectations. Chapter 2 will come before September and after that I'll try to focus back on "The Viking and the Snow Queen", but in September I will start 12th grade, which means my graduation is coming up next May, so I will have to study in every second of my life next year, but I'll try to take some time. Later!******

3. The Eve of the Storm

****A.N.:** Hey guys! I'm back for the third chapter of this story and after this I will return to "The Viking and the Snow Queen".******

****I** would like to thank everyone who faved this story or added it to their alert lists. Also thanks for hcspl for his reviews and support.******

****Alright, here we go:****

****Chapter 2: The Eve of The Storm****

The words of the witch kept tormenting Merida all the way home. _"There is a storm coming? What was that supposed to mean?" _The young princess was sure the old crook wasn't just forecasting the weather "and sure, it did look like there could be a storm breaking out anytime now" but just because it was colder than usual, that didn't mean there were some supernatural powers working in the background and an old prophecy about to be fulfilled.

And yet, Merida couldn't shake off the feeling of some nervousness.

There was a reason that she couldn't get her mind off of this thing and that was that the witch sought her out with this prophecy about a ruler with powers who will bring cold and darkness right before her family was about to greet Queen Elsa in Dunbroch. Merida shook her head. That was stupid. Elsa was young woman who was apparently very shy and seclusive, due to her having spent her entire childhood locked up in the palace. But at the same time, the story her mother always told her about an ancient kingdom that has fallen in ruins because of a prince's greed and selfishness proved too be true after all. So, why couldn't this...

"No! This is insane!" growled the red haired princess as she shook her head to dismiss those ridiculous thoughts. But no matter how hard she tried to shake them away, the witch planted the seed of doubt inside her. Great. Now she will worry about this stupid thing the whole time Queen Elsa is in Dunbroch and probably completely embarrass herself and her family in front of the Arendelle delegates. She sighed as she slowly rode Angus back to the castle. She thought that maybe helping her mother with the preparations back there would get her minds off of this thing.

* * *

><p>Princess Anna of Arendelle let out a sigh as she kept staring at the sea, into the direction where her sister's ship have set sail to just a few hours ago. She was feeling really nervous, since her parents have died on the sea three years earlier. Ever since then, she could not look at a ship without this tragic memory striking back into her mind. And now her sister is out there too. She prayed to God for her sister not to suffer the same fate. She wouldn't be able to bare it.<p>

She found it strange that after thirteen years of staying locked up in her room, shutting everyone out for more then a decade, she suddenly decided to visit the kingdom of Dunbroch for diplomatic reasons. When she asked her about it, she replied with, "I am a Queen, Anna, and I have my duties." She couldn't help, but scoff. Elsa has been abandoning her duties as a sister for thirteen years, but when she becomes queen, she suddenly becomes the responsible ruler. To Anna, that meant that Elsa was putting the kingdom before her. Not like she didn't understood. Elsa was a queen and as the queen she should put her kingdom before everything else, but that didn't mean it didn't hurt.

In the past few weeks, there were big changes in Arendelle. The gates were reopened and she didn't have to live in seclusion anymore. But people were only allowed into the palace if they had serious business with the Queen. Elsa was truly doing her best to be a good queen. But not everyone were so convinced about it. Some of the more wealthy and powerful people in Arendelle have expressed great disapproval against the young queen taking the throne on her own. Some of them even started to scheme against Elsa or turning the people against her, but strangely enough, these people have mysteriously disappeared shortly after.

This didn't really help the queen's reputation, but none dared to further speak against Elsa's rule. Rumors were still there of course, but Elsa and Anna didn't care. They knew better than to upset themselves on what the greedy pretenders and the peasants came up with to throw dirt on her or entertain themselves as Elsa once put

it. Elsa has changed so much over the past few weeks. She was no longer the sweet and innocent girl then she was. She was now a strong and ambitious woman. Even though she only ruled for barely over a month, but Anna could tell she was aiming to be a fair ruler. Even though, Anna had witnessed outbursts of her sister. The most intense one was when during a meeting, her council brought up the subject of marriage. They suggested a suitor who's open intention was to take over the role of ruling Arendelle from her. Elsa then snapped at them and forcefully declared that some power hungry prince won't take over the kingdom that her family ruled for generations.

As for the relationship between the two sisters, it didn't improve much. Elsa didn't shut her out anymore, but she didn't even try to warm up to her. She never had time for her, always brushing her off over a meeting or something. And Anna even wanted to go with her to this trip, but Elsa declined, saying she needed someone to look after things while she was gone. Though Anna understood her reasoning, she still felt rejected.

But even with her sister gone, she wouldn't be alone anymore. Because she finally found herself a someone to make her feel loved, if her sister wasn't willing to do that anymore. The thought of her charming, lovely boyfriend, Prince Hans of the Southern Isles brought a smile to her face. She felt the love of a man for the first time. Even though they only encountered at Elsa's coronation briefly, a few hours later Hans had proposed her, and of course, she said yes. Elsa on the other hand didn't even want to hear about a marriage. When they asked for her blessing, she immediately said no, but after some discussion with Hans, she gave him her permission to court her.

"How are you feeling, Anna?" Speak of the devil. The princess' boyfriend came up to her from behind and wrapped her arms around her waist, pulling her into an embrace. Anna relaxed into it, but her worry for her sister didn't go away.

"I'm fine." she muttered.

"Are you sure? You don't look fine to me." said Hans with concern in his voice. Anna sighed.

"It's just... My parents died on the sea in a storm. And now Elsa is out there and I just can't stop worrying." Anna soon started releasing tiny sobs as she turned around and buried her face in Hans's chest. The prince pulled her closer and started to sooth her.

"Don't worry, dear. I'm sure Elsa will be fine." he said on a calming voice. Anna kept sobbing into his chest as he stroked her hair. Hans didn't worry, he knew the queen will be just fine.

* * *

><p>"Sorry I'm late, mum, I've been delayed." Merida exclaimed cheerfully as she burst into the dining room, carrying a plate full of food like she used to. After getting back to the castle and bidding farewell to Angus, she instantly made her way to the kitchen to pick up her lunch, then went straight to the dining room, eager to stuff herself with her lunch. "But I'm here now and I'm starving." Her entire family sat at the table, staring at her in shock, which she didn't expect.<p>

"Merida..." Elinor started, but her daughter cut her off.

"I know, mum, ladylike behavior at the table and all, but we still have time before this queenie arrives and I want to enjoy it." she said as she sat down in her chair and almost immediately started to chew on a piece of meat.

"Merida..." her mother said a little louder, but she didn't get very far this time either.

"I just hope you don't want her to taste that sheep stomach thing, poor woman would have left with bad memories of Dunbroch." she laughed with her mouth full.

"It was quite tasteful actually." came an unfamiliar voice. Merida turned to the other side of the table and saw a woman with platinum blond hair, wearing a purple and green dress, staring at her with a raised eyebrow. Merida froze in place. Dead silence came to the room. The young princess didn't know what to do, she didn't even address Queen Elsa yet and she already embarrassed herself and her family. In the end, all Merida could do was swallow the food in her mouth and grin like an idiot, not knowing how to get herself out of such a situation, as her mother buried her face in her hands.

Elsa was... stunned to say the least. Before her ship set sail to Dunbroch, she got details on all of the members of the royal family, and this Princess Merida seemed to be the most intriguing of them all. She was aware that she got the family by surprise by arriving earlier than expected and she was interested how would they act in such a state of shock, but this certainly wasn't what she expected. When Elsa heard that this girl made a deal with a witch that transformed her mother into a bear, she was on the verge of throwing her informer into the dungeons in chains, declaring him mad. But she heard rumors around Dunbroch concerning this matter and while Elsa knew that rumors were mostly not true, they always had something to base upon. And to be honest, if there was indeed a witch in Dunbroch, that could prove useful to her in the future.

Getting tired of the awkward silence in the room, Elsa decided to break the silence. "So, how was your day... princess?" She asked, practically forcing the last word out on her mouth. This girl in front of her could be considered many things, but a princess was not one of them.

It took some time for Merida to recover from the shock of being caught in such an embarrassing situation and ruining her first impression on the Queen. Finally pulling herself together after a few moments of stun, she tried to save the situation as much as she could. "It... was..." she was still at a loss of words, so she took a peek at her mother for some help, before she said something that could worsen things. Elinor just gestured her to try to act politely and try to start a proper conversation. Sheepishly smiling, she turned back to the blonde woman. "It was pleasant, thank you for asking, your majesty."

Elsa had to do her best not to laugh out loud at Merida's feeble attempt to appear regal before her, but she managed to reduce it to a warm smile. "Well, glad to hear that." she said, then turned to Elinor. "You have a really..." she stopped to search for a fitting

word. "...energetic daughter."

Elinor chuckled at that, relieved that the queen did not take offense from Merida's behavior. "You have no idea, Queen Elsa." she said with a smile, which Elsa returned.

"She actually reminds me of my sister somewhat." she said. Merida smiled at this with a sigh of relief. That could actually mean they could get along.

It was true. Merida reminded Elsa of Anna much. In fact, it was almost frightening. Much like her sister, the carefree and casual nature was just radiating from this girl. It was like her sister's image haunted Elsa wherever she went and whatever she did. Back in her isolated days, she just didn't stop knocking on her door and after the coronation, she desperately tried to recreate the sisterly bond they had back when they were kids. Elsa however was the Queen of Arendelle now. She didn't have time for little kids games, she had an entire country to lead for crying out loud. And an important mission as well. Taking another look at the princess, a quite distasteful look took over her face as she unintentionally remembered the last big conversation between her and her sister.

5 weeks ago, Elsa's coronation

Elsa was quite pleased with how the coronation ball went. She was now the Queen of Arendelle, no longer have to isolate herself from the outside world. But despite the fact she never really experienced a ball before, it was starting to become boring to her. She silently thanked God when she was done with greeting the guests and accepting their regards. Having no interest in spending the rest of the night dancing with a handsome prince from a foreign kingdom... well in the dancing part anyway, she was about to call it a night.

"Elsa!" Elsa turned to the source of the voice and unsurprisingly saw her sister heading towards her, dragging a young man behind her. She was surprised to see her sister actually trying to make another attempt at getting along with her after she brushed her off earlier. "I mean, Queen." she said, trying to produce a clumsy curtsy, much to her sister's amusement. "May I present, Prince Hans of the Southern Isles." she said, gesturing to the man, standing next to her, who bowed his head to her.

"We would... like... your blessing... on our marriage." they stuttered together, making it difficult to understand. Elsa raised eyebrow.

"Marriage?" she asked, completely dumbfounded. Her sister gets out of the castle for like five hours and gets herself engaged to the first prince who comes across? Out of all the stupid... Oh, her sister and her mysterious ways.

"Yes." Anna squealed in delight.

"I'm sorry, I'm confused." Elsa admitted. Her sister started to blabber some things about their wedding plans, but she wasn't really paying much attention to it. She was too busy, observing this Hans character. There was something off about him. She could feel it. And the more she observed him, the more clear it became. The way he made himself appear in front of Anna, his smile, obviously fake,

everything about him was fake, his stance, his look, everything. Elsa saw through it in a minute. This was the same facade she always had to put on for her parents to make herself look good in front of them. They wouldn't expect anything less of her than the perfect girl after the... incident. Even the slightest foul up and Elsa had a feeling that she could easily end up in the dungeons, or banished in the wilderness, or maybe even the scaffold.

No, she will not be fooled by the same act that she mastered over the past ten years. This Hans was obviously up to something, but what could it be? Nevertheless, she won't turn the tables on him just yet. But for now she had to end this ludicrous scene in front of her, these two were already planning moving in together and inviting the prince's brothers to stay with them.

"Anna, stop!" she said, making the two young royals look at her. "No one's brother is staying here and no one is getting married." she stated firmly.

"Wait, what?" Anna asked on a hurt tone.

"May I talk to you please... alone?" she asked, wishing to avoid a possible royal scandal.

"No," Anna said firmly as she grabbed the prince's arm. "Whatever you have to say, you can say to both of us." Elsa narrowed her eyes. If she wanted it this way, then let's do it this way.

"Fine, you can't marry a man you just met." she declared forcefully.

"You can, if it's true love." Anna objected. Elsa could barely contain her mocking laughter. True love? Yeah, right.

"Anna, what do you know about true love?" she asked on a pitying voice.

"More than you!" responded Anna, greatly upset by her sister's tone. "All you know is how to shut people out!" And this was it. Elsa's eyes widened at the cruel, cold reply. She was forced to be locked up in a room for thirteen years for her sake and she actually has the nerve to throw it in her face. That... That... Ungrateful little brat! How dare she?! Elsa narrowed her eyes even further and spoke on an icy, unforgiving tone that made the two before her shiver.

"You asked for my blessing, but my answer is no." she said, glaring into her sister's eyes with fierce anger. "And now, if you'll excuse..." She was about to walk away, but Anna's would-be husband stopped her.

"Your majesty, may I say a few words?" he asked. Elsa was about to send him away, but then an idea struck her. An idea, that involved this Prince Hans in her future plans. She was thinking it over and after a few moments, she spoke.

"Very well, Prince Hans." Hans smiled about being able to convince the queen, however, she wasn't done yet. "But we will have these few words in private if you please." Anna narrowed her eyes at her.

"Elsa, I already told you, if you have something to say..." Elsa however interrupted her.

"Anna, let me make myself more clear. I will talk to Prince Hans in private." Elsa's tone was cold as ice, making her sister understand that she wasn't in the mood for another argument. She reluctantly nodded, with a saddened expression and let go of his arm.

"I'll be back soon." he reassured her by gently stroking her hand. Anna smiled at him as Elsa cleared her throat.

"If you'd be kind enough to follow me to my office." The queen said, gesturing for Hans to follow her. Hans nodded and left the ballroom in her company.

* * *

><p>Elsa knew the way to her office, but it was still an odd feeling to be actually claiming it as her own. It used to be her father's for years and now it was hers. Hans was sitting in front of her, feeling a little nervous. Ever since they got there, Elsa said nothing to him, just sat down in her chair and pulled out some papers and started reading through them. Her expression was unreadable and she didn't even look at him for several minutes. This silence was making him uncomfortable, so he decided to break the ice.<p>

"Uh... your majesty, as I was saying about the marriage..." he started, but Elsa raised a hand in front of him, signaling him to stop. She slowly put her hand down and put on an almost sickeningly sweet smile.

"Prince Hans, time is an important matter and I suggest we stop wasting each others'." Hans raised an eyebrow, curious to see where this conversation will go. "My sister may be naïve and desperate for love enough to fall for you, but I see through your facade." Hans became alarmed, as Elsa continued. "Your smile and your stance, your talk and your love, all fake. I can see what you are doing. Putting on a mask of perfection for someone to accept you is something I know way too well. You want to marry my sister, for reasons unknown to me, because thinking you love her after less than a few hours sounds just ridiculous, don't you think." Hans froze in his seat, unable to say anything. Elsa continued. "If I would have to guess, I would say you are after the throne of Arendelle. Am I right?" Hans once again couldn't form words. He looked at Elsa as if a thief caught in act. "Looks like I hit the nail right on the head. You only want power and position out of this marriage and I'm afraid I can't grant it to you..." Before Hans could say anything, Elsa continued. "...without a prize."

"What prize are you talking about?" Hans asked with a frown. Elsa smirked.

"I have a proposition for you. You see, my sister is craving love and attention and she believes she found it in you. I cannot give it to her at the moment, and you seem to be perfect for this job."

"Why bother with your sister, if you do not love her?" Hans asked, his voice becoming just as cold as the queen's. Elsa frowned.

"My relationship with my sister is none of your concern, Hans. But to

answer your question, I have plans, plans that my sister would greatly disapprove of and as the second most powerful figure in Arendelle, she has the most chances of standing against me. So, my sister must stay unaware of my intentions. Simply put, I want you to court her, so she doesn't dig her nose into my business."

"And what's in it for me?" Hans asked. Elsa leaned forward in her chair and spoke on a soft, promising tone.

"I will help you achieve your life long dream, you will be king." she said with a smile. Hans looked dubious.

"What do you know about my life long dreams?" he asked incredulously, clearly not giving Elsa any hints that she knew anything about him. Elsa chuckled.

"I have my ways of gathering knowledge."

"Ok, let's say for a moment you got it right. Wouldn't it be difficult for me to become king, if I courted the princess?" he asked. Elsa raised an eyebrow in confusion, before realizing, what he meant and burst into a fit of giggles.

"Oh, you think I would make you King of Arendelle? No, handsome. You will become king of your own kingdom, The Southern Isles."

"Well, as tempting as that may sound, I am merely thirteenth in line for the throne. In my own kingdom I don't stand a chance." Hans said. Elsa raised an eyebrow and shrugged.

"That didn't seem to bother you in the past. Scheming against your brothers, trying to get rid of them, by throwing dirt at them, or trying to assassinate them or..." Hans' eyes widened in shock, he stood up and leaned dangerously close to the woman with an enraged face.

"How dare you accuse me of such..." but Elsa didn't let him finish, she stood up too and there was something about her, some invisible force that made the room become dark and cold. A force that made Hans fall back into his chair. Elsa's expression didn't help either. Her face suddenly lost that sickeningly sweet, taunting smile and became stone cold as she spoke.

"I thought we agreed we do not waste each others time, Hans. Do not even try to deny anything I just said." she sneered and threw the papers she was reading earlier at him. Hans looked at them carefully, they were documents about his kingdom and his family and various political schemes that went down in there. Hans became almost as pale as Elsa. "How... how..."

"Elsa laughed. "How did I learn of these things? Being locked up in a room for thirteen years has it's upsides, darling. One of them is you have awfully lot of time to learn. And I learned, Prince Hans. Many things, from people like diplomats, or ambassadors, or occasionally some of my father's spies who came back from kingdoms who weren't on such good terms with Arendelle. You didn't cover your tracks as well as you thought. So, why not make this easier for both of us and just accept my generous offer. I don't think I'm asking too much. Just keep my sister occupied, while I do my things and I will get you the throne of the Southern Isles, but if you decline, I'm afraid I'd have

to reveal the knowledge I have about you, and to be honest, I don't want my coronation ball to end with an execution." Hans sat in his chair in defeat. He knew that should this information be revealed, he would be over for sure. "So, what do you say?" Elsa asked, extending her hand. Hans realized this woman was someone you want more as an ally, than an enemy. So making his mind up, he extended his hand and shook the queen's unusually cold one.

* * *

><p>Elsa smiled at that memory. She played that prince as an instrument and with him, she will have less problems to worry about. She must have been in her thoughts longer than she thought, because Elinor called out to her.<p>

"Queen Elsa, are you alright?" Returning to reality, Elsa smiled at her and said.

"Perfectly, thank you Queen Elinor. If you excuse me though, I would retire to my room for the rest of the day. The cruise was exhausting and I would like to get some rest on a real bed." Elinor nodded.

"Of course. Please enjoy your stay in Dunbroch." she said kindly as Elsa stood up and walked away.

"Thank you. I most certainly will." She said as she walked out of the dining room to go back to hers and prepare for tonight. _'Not so sure about you, though.' _she thought.

****A.N.:**** ****And this is the third chapter. I decided to introduce Anna and Hans and try to explain what roles they will play in this story. The rest of the Big Four will come in eventually.****

****I will return to "The Viking and the Snow Queen now, but school started, so I don't know how much time will I have for writing. Thank you for reading this chapter and please remember, reviews make me happy!****

****Bye!****

4. Stormclouds

****Chapter 3: Stormclouds****

"Ugh, what a day!" groaned Queen Elsa of Arendelle. She has retired to the guest room of the castle for the rest of the day. The boat trip to Dunbroch was exhaustic, not to mention that this was her first trip on a boat and, needless to say, she wasn't used to it, nor was she fond of the feeling of nausea that she had when she finally stepped off of that ship. And her first impressions of this foreign kingdom weren't the best either.

Dunbroch was not unfamiliar to her. Back when her parents ruled the kingdom, the delegates of this kingdom often visited Arendelle for diplomatic reasons. Her parents " may God rest their foolish, narrow minded souls - did their best to fix the relationship with Dunbroch as much as they could, but Elsa couldn't help but think they put too much effort into dealing with one kingdom only. She was well aware of the two kingdoms' troublesome history. She noticed a few

people on her way to the castle, sending dirty glares at her, no doubt because of her being the ruler of a kingdom Dunbroch had so much trouble with in the past. Though Elsa felt like she should just brush them off as narrow minded, fanatic fools, thinking that just because she was from a kingdom that tried to conquer them two hundred years ago, and two hundred years before that, she must have the same intentions two hundred years later, she couldn't blame them.

If she had to give credit to the scotts for one thing â€" other than their fighting spirit â€" it would be their ability to make cozy decoration out of animal fur. The chair she was sitting had an incredibly comfortable bear fur-cover. She even made a mental note to herself that she should bring some of this furniture back to her castle. Dunbroch, however, still couldn't beat Arendelle in art of making drinks. No matter how much they loved drinking, as far as she was concerned, Arendelle wine was unbeatable. Good thing she brought a bottle of it with herself on this trip and she was slowly sipping it from a cup that if someone would take a look at, would swear was made of ice.

Elsa finished her drink with a sigh. As much as she liked a good drink, it was undeniable that she couldn't take it well. She always drank responsibly, but it was like she couldn't handle some of it's negative effects. This greatly frustrated her. She hated the fact that something so simple could get her down so easily. She put down her cup. No more drinking for a while. She needed as much energy as she can muster up and perfect focus for the big event that was to come tonight.

Suddenly, there was a knock on her door.

"Enter!" she called, even though she wasn't really in the mood for any company. The door opened and to Elsa's biggest surprise, the person standing there was none other than Princess Merida.

'What could she possibly want?' Elsa wondered. Regardless, she didn't want to show any kind of hostility towards the royal family that was hosting her, so she smiled and greeted her in the friendliest way she could.

"Princess, what a surprise!" she said cheerfully. "What can I do for you?"

Merida was feeling very uncomfortable. Not only did she embarrass herself and her family on that dinner in front of the queen of another country, but she never was too fond of her royal title and people addressing her with it. However, she never was too fond of not being in control of a situation either, and she was eager to finally overcome her uneasiness and finally act like her usual self, which meant finally take control of a conversation with this queen and speak with confidence.

"First, if I may ask, please don't call me princess, I never liked it when people saw me only as a royalty instead of the person I truly am." she started. Elsa pretty much expected this, as it was common knowledge that Merida didn't like to bother with titles. An interesting treat of hers, yet Elsa couldn't help but feel a little intrigue towards her for it. Most royals of the kingdoms around only did saw other royals as titles: Kings, Queens, Dukes, Barons and so on. But this Merida was willing to overlook these titles and see

someone for the person they truly were. This was a very respectable thing from her. Out of this respect, she decided to comply.

"Alright, Merida," she started slowly to see how she reacts to her calling her by name. She seemed to be okay with it, in fact, she even seemed relieved. "But I highly doubt this is the only reason you came to me." she finished and Merida nodded.

"I just want to apologize for my behavior in the dining room. I know it was disrespectful of me to act like that in front of you, and to ask that, please, don't think lowly of my family or my kingdom because of me." she apologized. Elsa just smiled and waved it off.

"Think nothing of it. Do you think we royals are never messing something up? We are still just people." she said. Merida seemed to be happy with this answer. Thinking that it signaled the end of their brief conversation, Elsa turned away from her, but she was interrupted.

Merida apparently thought that after making sure the reputation of her family was safe, maybe she could fix her own with this queen. "Would you like a tour around the castle?" she offered. This caught Elsa off guard. Is she trying to befriend her? She was about to politely decline the princess' offer, but then she thought it over. If she would know her way around the castle, that would be a big advantage to her. She smiled at the thought. The young princess would unknowingly become her greatest ally in the upcoming event.

"That would be very nice of you, Merida, thank you." she replied. The young princess smiled at the queen, happy that she got a chance at redeeming herself in front of her. She motioned for Elsa to follow her and the two began their little tour around the castle.

* * *

><p>Meanwhile in Arendelle, the queen's closest ally, Prince Hans of the Southern Isles was walking down the corridors of the royal palace. Indeed the royal palace was beautiful, he mused, and it could compete with the one in his own kingdom in many ways, even outdoing it in some ways. Hans may have been an ambitious man, but he always took time in admiring beauty around him.<p>

Speaking of beauty, he was currently looking for the princess he was supposed to court. Ever since he started working for Elsa, his job was to spend every single second with Anna and keep her company. At first he was a little irritated that he had to take a break from his quest for power to play prince charming for the young girl, but as time went by, Hans found himself enjoying the company of Anna more and more. Over the past few months, the two had become very close and would often be found sneaking away at night to do some romantic stuff that young people in love were supposed to do.

Not that Hans was in love with her.

Elsa made it clear what she wanted. Hans was supposed to keep Anna entertained so she doesn't find out anything about her intentions in the future, but that didn't mean he couldn't have fun while he did that. The thing Hans enjoyed the most while spending time with Anna

was the attention she was giving him. Back in his kingdom, no one ever paid much attention to him before. Not only did Anna always listen to everything he told her, even if they were not entirely true, but she always listened to him closely and with such passion that Hans never experienced before. He felt like he found a companion in the young princess and it was a strange new feeling, but a really nice one.

Hans surfaced from his thoughts to see that he just arrived to Anna's room. He knocked on it and a few seconds later he was greeted by the warm and welcoming smile of the princess. For some reason, he felt a strange warm feeling in his stomach as soon as he saw it.

"Hans! Come on in!" Anna said in excitement, happy to see her beloved. Hans eagerly entered the room. It was everything you would expect from the room of a princess. A large bed, a big window covered by fine curtains and elegant furniture. She also had some paintings on the walls and some old dolls and plush toys. "So, what are you doing here?" Anna asked. Hans put on an offended look.

"Why do you ask Anna? Do I need a reason to see my beautiful bride?" Anna quickly caught on, but instead of playing along, she just crossed her arms and smiled.

"Hans, you do realize that we are not engaged yet, right?" she asked. Hans smiled.

"Yet." He empathized, "But I have a feeling that it won't be long until they ring the wedding bells for us." he said as he put his arms around Anna's waist. She blushed. "Trust me; your sister will lighten up very soon." Anna's beautiful features changed into a frown. She honestly didn't understand why Elsa was so stubborn about their marriage. It was obvious that Hans was perfect for her.

"Could we please talk about something else? This is kind of a sour subject." she said in a saddened voice as she looked away. Hans grabbed her chin and softly raised her head to make her look back at him.

"Of course we could." he reassured, regretting to bring up their delayed engagement. "So... are you busy?" Anna just nodded.

"I have to look after things until Elsa comes back. This paperwork is insufferable. If you ask me, I think she just left because she wanted a break from it." she joked. Hans chuckled. "Besides, there is still a ton of things I have to do after this. Like that meeting with the council and then the problems the people of Arendelle have been bringing up to Elsa and the..." before Anna could break out in an unstoppable rambling, Hans cut her off.

"Actually about those... I decided to help you a little with these things. I already dealt with the council about that new tax Elsa was planning and they accepted, I dealt with many people's complaints and you can also consider the new decorations of the ballroom done." Anna couldn't believe her ears.

"You... You managed to deal with these in less than a day?" she asked in awe. Hans nodded. "But wait. How come they let you make these decisions? These people don't usually let people, other than the Queen or me stick their noses into these things."

"Well, since they know I am a royal as well, they gladly accepted my help." Hans said. In truth, before Elsa left, she made it clear to her people that Hans was left just as much in charge as her sister. Anna didn't really know about this, but Hans was making the more important decisions. Elsa knew that he was more capable of it than Anna. "So how many papers have left for you to go through?"

Anna grinned from ear to ear as she grabbed three pages of paper from her table. "Just three more left and I'm golden. What do you have in mind?" she asked.

"Well, why don't you quickly finish with those papers while I go and arrange things?" Hans answered. He was already thinking on what they could do on this beautiful afternoon. He felt that, if he stepped up his game with Anna, Elsa, when she returned, would allow him to marry the Princess, thus allowing him to put back in motion his quest for power.

"Being secret are we?" Anna teased while leaning toward him. "Okay then, come here once you're finishedâ€¦| arranging things. I'll probably be finished with these papers by then." She said while trying to not sound too eager to see what Hans had planned for her. She liked their romantic sneaking at night, so the prospect of sharing an afternoon alone with her fiancÃ©e was exciting for her.

Hans chuckled at the innocence of Anna. Despite what she may believe her eyes showed how eager she was for this afternoon, and, maybe for some childish reason, Hans didn't want to disappoint her after seeing the sparkle in those cerulean eyes. "Okay then, I'll be back soon." He said before pecking her lips and slipping out of her room.

Hours later he had returned to her room, half expecting to find Anna still buried under the mountainous amount of paper, and therefore having to help her. But, much to his surprise, he found the Princess waiting for him with a huge grin, and a pile of papers neatly ordered and signed. "I told you I'd be finished when you returned." She said while standing from the chair, looking very amused at his surprised face.

Hans felt slightly embarrassed that he let show his surprise, and felt heat rise to his cheeks. Thankfully he knew well how to conceal his emotions, and didn't show his embarrassment when he spoke. "Well then, even better. I have my little surprise for milady. Shall I escort you to there?" he said while raising his arm in a gesture for Anna to link hers with his.

Instantly she was at his side, their arms intertwined and a huge grin on her face. "By all means my Prince, lead the way." She answered, half-teasing the title he had used when speaking to her.

Hans lead Anna to the stables where to royal stallions were fed and saddled by his orders, and waiting for their riders. With them there were baskets and a blanket wrapped inside a satchel so they could go to a picnic and enjoy the sunset. If Anna was surprised that he was taking her to a picnic she didn't show, as her excitement could be simply because she would be out of the castle.

After climbing the horses (Hans, ever the gentleman, helped Anna

climb her stallion, and received a peck on his cheek in return that almost made the Princess to fall from the horse, and landing on him. She offered him a sheepish smile in apologize, and he shrugged off her clumsiness, as he was already used to it after courting her for some months) they left the castle heading toward a part of the forest where they could have a clear and peaceful view of the sunset.

Their trip was mostly silent, as Anna was taking in every inch of the environment surrounding her. While she already knew the land surrounding the castle, Anna never ceased to watch and observe her surroundings, as Hans had noticed, perhaps because she had an irrational fear of the gates closing once again. Something Hans knew that would never happen.

When they reached the place Hans had decided to have the picnic Anna gasped. It was a small clearing, big enough to even have a trading post, which ended in a small cliff facing the ocean. The sky was tinted orange and red as the sun was almost setting, and the water of the ocean before them reflected this light in an almost otherworldly way, thus adding up to the beauty of this place.

"It's beautiful Hans" she spoke after finding her voice. "I love it." she added after looking at him in the eyes. He was slightly surprise to see such gratitude irradiating from the Princess, but quickly remembered that she was not used to have people surprising her other than him. He smiled back, and wondered what was the warm feeling he felt by seeing her awed smile.

* * *

><p>"I hope you enjoyed the trip, Queen Elsa." Merida said at the end of their little tour in the castle. Elsa nodded with a small smile. Merida have been showing her every room and even telling her small stories about paintings or statues. She even dropped a few hints about the "bear incident" in a joking manner, hoping Elsa wouldn't take her seriously. Even though, she had a hard time understanding her under that incredibly strong Scottish accent.<p>

"Thank you for guiding me in your castle, Merida. It was lovely indeed." she said. Elsa was a little irritated though. Merida showed her the entire castle, but there was nothing that could be useful for her. Still, she now knew her way around the castle and that was better than nothing. But maybe there was something she didn't see yet. She would ask about it. "So, tell me, is there anything I didn't see yet?" Merida stopped. There was indeed something she didn't show Elsa yet, but she wasn't entirely sure if she should show it to her. Slowly, but surely, she spoke up.

"No, that was all." Elsa frowned slightly. She was lying, it was obvious. But she decided not to push it. That would ruin her image in front of her.

"Very well. Thank you once again, but it is getting late and I'm really tired. Goodnight." She said simply as she made her way past Merida, leaving the princess quite stunned. Elsa's tone changed from friendly and warm to cold and distant with that last sentence so quickly that she couldn't help but notice it. She just couldn't shrug it off. She had a bad feeling about this Queen. And the fact that there was always so cold around her didn't help.

Elsa however wasn't going back to her room just yet. She had an important meeting with the captain of the Royal Guards accompanying her. Just as she predicted, the leaders of Dunbroch weren't very enthusiastic about the number of Guards she took with her, but she handled it quite well. She was locked up in the castle for thirteen years and Queen Elinor was quite understanding about the fact that she didn't feel too comfortable leaving Arendelle for the first time.

She made her way to the gate, where the man was waiting for her. Captain Nero was a rather experienced and seasoned member of the Royal Guards. He became a guard in Elsa's father's time and he slowly made his way up the ladder. But only when Elsa became Queen would he become captain. King Agdar did not really dare to give much power into the hands of the ambitious man. He was way too shadowy and untrustworthy. Fortunately for him, he was a rather smart and skillful leader within the unit, and that was exactly the man Elsa was looking for. True, his loyalty could be questioned, but Elsa did not worry about betrayal. If he tried anything, she would be able to sweep him aside easily and it would not be pretty. She hoped he wasn't that foolish though.

"Captain Nero, reporting for duty, Your Majesty!" he said and bowed as he saw the Queen approaching him.

"Rise." Elsa said with a dismissive wave of her hand. She really didn't like to put up with all these formalities. "I assume you managed to settle down with the others."

Nero nodded. "Yes, Your Majesty, but the men are very confused as to why have you brought so much of them with you on this trip. Especially with the fact that they are ordered to stay sharp for the time being. As if they are supposed to expect something to happen but they don't know what and this makes them rather nervous."

Elsa let that sink in. Maybe she should pay a visit to the good men who swore their lives to protect and serve her. That would probably cheer them up.

"Alright, take me to them. I will sort this situation out to them." she ordered. Nero nodded and gestured for Elsa to follow him.

"Follow me, Your Majesty." he said and lead the young Queen away.

* * *

><p>Merida was unsure how to feel about this strange figure. If Merida was good at something, besides archery of course, it was figuring people out. Despite not being a very social person herself, she knew people. And she had a bad feeling about this Queen Elsa. She needed to know more about her. And she knew just the person who could help her with it.<p>

Merida entered her mother's room where she was " as expected " sitting at her table, deep in work. Queen Elinor always put maximal effort into her work and often didn't go to sleep until it was very late and this was one of those rare times the princess was happy that that was the case, because she really needed to talk with her mother.

"Mum." Elinor looked up from her work and greeted her daughter with a warm smile.

"Oh, hi Merida. Do you need something?" she asked as she went back to her paperwork. Merida decided to get straight to the point.

"Mum. What do you think of this Queen Elsa?" she asked. Elinor was slightly shocked by the question.

"Why on Earth would you ask that?" she asked in surprise.

"I don't know." Merida countered. "There is just something about her that gives me chills. She seems so..." she stopped to think of a word that perfectly expressed her opinion. "...cold." Elinor was silent for a few moments, trying to come up with a suitable response. But in the end she was unable to see logic behind Merida's response.

"What could give you such an idea? You don't even know her." she then narrowed her eyes. "This is not about the incident in the dining room, is it? Because that was entirely your..."

"Of course not!" Merida yelled. "I went to find her to apologize for that and offered her a tour in the castle. She accepted and she seemed to be eager to learn about the castle, but when I was finished, she changed. She just walked away so quickly and her tone turned so cold. It was like, I outlived my usefulness to her. Don't you think this is suspicious?" But to Merida's frustration, her mother just waved her off.

"Merida, I think this is a little paranoid thing to imagine. It was nice of you to lead Queen Elsa around the castle, but please try not to bother her with your conspiracy theories." Merida frowned. Her mother did not see Elsa's other face herself, so she couldn't understand. But she is not going to give up.

"Well, I don't like her. I think she is not what she makes herself look like. I think she is up to something." she would have went on, but her mother stopped her.

"Merida, that is enough! I have more important things to do, then listening to your ludicrous accusations against her. Like I said, leave her alone, she is an important royal figure and it is important for Dunbroch to keep up and improve the relationship with Arendelle. I don't think you want to be the one to push these two kingdoms back into animosity." Merida looked down when she heard that. Her mother was right. She didn't want that. "So please, even if you dislike Queen Elsa, though I think you have no reason to do so, please don't be in her way too much. She will not be here for long. Three or four days at most. Can you last that without trying to riddle her with arrows?" Merida was shocked that her mother would expect something like that from her.

"Don't you think that is a little far fetched?" Elinor looked unamused.

"Merida, you turned me into a bear. Nothing you do would surprise me anymore. And with that temper of yours'. My, who did you inherit that from?" she wondered. That actually earned a chuckle from her daughter.

"Well, you also can be pretty testy sometimes." she said.

"I didn't even hear that." Elinor replied. "Was there anything else you needed?" Merida shook her head. "Alright, off you go then." The redhead, seeing that she was unable to convince her mother, sighed in defeat and stood up from the table. "Merida," Elinor called, causing Merida to turn back to her. "Please, try not to ruin this for me. I realize this may sound rude, but as the queen, this is very important to me as well."

"I'll try, mum." Merida said softly, leaving the room. "Can't make any promises though." she whispered. And as if on cue, she turned to a window and what she saw was Queen Elsa walking towards the houses at the sides of the castle, being escorted by an arendellien soldier.

"Speak of the devil." she said, narrowing her eyes. "Not so tired after all, are you?" she asked herself. What she saw was proof enough. Elsa was up to something, and she is going to find out what it was. Little did she know, she will find out sooner then she would have thought.

****AN: Hi, guys!****

****I know I promised an update for "Christmastime Love", but I couldn't do it in time. I'm such a failure. This chapter however was closer to being finished. And I wanted to wish you guys a happy new year in style.****

****So anyway, I would like to thank you the support, the appreciation and the love I received from you guys all this year. You guys are the best. Writing for this fandom made me feel like I am apart of something big, and I'm very happy that I can be apart of it with you. I wish all of you the best next year.****

****Special thanks for warorpeace for helping me with this chapter. You are awesome man! Keep being awesome next year too!****

****Once again, you guys rock! Happy New Year! See you in 2015! This is fanfictionmakermachine, last update of 2014, signing off.****

5. The Snow Begins to Fall

****AN: What's up, guys? I hope you are having a pleasent 2015 so far. I decided to continue with this story. I know I have to finish that Christmas story and I promise I will, but now I was in a mood for writing this.****

****But first, I answer a few things that you guys often asked me about.****

****First, the pairings of this story. I am sure of the Hans and Anna stuff. No offense to Kristanna shippers, but I prefer this. Kristanna is just uninteresting to me. Also, Rapunzel and Flynn will be in it too. In this whole fandom, that is the only canon pairing that I like. And many of you asked if there will be Hiccelsa. Well, I have an idea to make this Hiccelsa, but it will not be completely romantic.****

****And the other characters. Well, Merida will soon need to leave Dunbroch and she will go to another kingdom for help. She finds it in another princess and her two unlikely friends. And sorry, but our favorite viking-dragon duo still got a while before they come in, but be patient!****

****Anyway, without further ado, let's get started. I hope that you will like it, and please don't forget the two big Rs. Read and Review. :)****

****Chapter 4: The Snow Begins To Fall****

She was hot on her trail. When Merida decided to do something, there was no force on heaven or earth that could convince her to stop. And at the moment, the thing she was keen on doing was finding out what the Queen of Arendelle was planning.

Her mother asked her to leave her alone, but deep down, Merida knew that Elsa was up to no good. And honestly, it was not the first time she went against Elinor's instructions. Only this time, she had a solid reason to do so. Because it seemed like Elsa would soon make her move.

Said Queen would have been out of Merida's range by the time she got out of the castle, but she knew her way around it way too well. Shortcuts, every exits and even a few secret passageways that proved to be really handy sometimes. Merida knew every and all one of them, so she was able to make it out just in time to be able to further track the queen.

There was a man with her. He was a Royal Guard, that was for certain, but that wasn't what worried Merida. Even from the distance that was between them, she could see how this guy looked like and she didn't like him one bit. He was a tall, but not very muscular looking, he wasn't someone she would think would be a soldier. But if he got to personally escort Elsa, then he must have been special for some reason.

The pair she had been following arrived to the gates of the castle, where two guards stopped them. The two seemed very surprised to see Elsa wanting to leave the castle, because it was getting late by that point and she didn't really have any place she might have wanted to visit as she has only been in Dunbroch for less then a day. Merida hid behind a stone wall and waited for whatever was about to happen.

"Queen Elsa, if I may ask, what business do you have outside the castle so late?" one of the guards asked. Elsa had to fight the urge to roll her eyes. This scottish accent really started to bother her. Before she could answer, Captain Nero beat her to it.

"None of your business. Now move out of the way!" he ordered firmly. The two glared at him, but their stare was nothing compared to a sudden shiver running down his spine. He looked at the queen who had her eyes narrowed in an icy glare that felt as cold as death. Even Merida, who was hiding a few meters away felt the intense cold, making her shiver. _'Seriously, is this woman made of ice or what?'_

"Captain Nero," Elsa started on a low voice. "Please don't be so disrespectful to our hosts. They are merely doing their job and you..." at this point, the captain felt like all the coldness around them was coming together at his throat. He literally felt like a dagger made of ice was pointed at his neck. He could barely breathe. "...are getting out of line." she added that last line with a hint of danger. Nero may be her general, but he has no right to speak in her name. Especially in such a manner.

"Yes..." Nero gulped before he could finish, which was a bad idea, because it just added to the intense pain in his throat. "Yes, your majesty." he said, and in that moment, he felt the cold leaving his body. He sighed in relief, glad he could breathe again. Elsa then turned to the two guards, but her expression remained stoic.

"Gentlemen, please forgive my man for his behavior. We are on our way to see the Royal Guards who accompanied me from Arendelle. My captain told me that they are growing nervous, and I believed my presence would cheer them up." She explained. The guards looked at each other, as in suspicion, but they didn't seem to have any problem with it. Unlike Merida, who frowned to herself. She is going to see her soldiers.

"Very well, your Majesty." said one of them, an average looking man with black hair and a beard. "We're sorry for holding you up."

"It's quite alright." Elsa said. "Goodbye." she then turned back to Nero and motioned for him to move. The just nodded, with a nervous look and walked past the two scottish guards, followed by her queen.

The bearded one walked away, leaving his partner. A fairly young, guard, no older than nineteen, alone at the gate. Merida came out of her hiding spot and walked up to him.

"Princess, what are you doing here?" he asked. Merida let out a frustrated sigh.

"Ian, what did I tell you about this?" Merida knew him well. He was a good friend of her, they have been close during their youth. Ian laughed in embarrassment.

"Sorry, Merida."

"That's better." she nodded.

"But the question remains. What are you doing here so late?" Merida didn't know what to say. She probably shouldn't share her hunch about the Queen without evidence, but Ian was her very close friend. Maybe even her best friend. She felt like if she could trust anyone with this, it would be him.

"Well, maybe you will think I'm crazy, but I think this Queen is up to something. And I want to find out. It is a good thing I came across you. With your help, I would have a better chance." She told him. Ian wasn't expecting that.

"What on Earth would make you think that?" he asked, not really understanding what concerned Merida about her.

"Don't tell me you didn't notice how she acts around people. Haven't you just seen how she talked to her soldier and how quickly she changed her tone when she turned to you? She must be hiding something. And you must have noticed how cold it is around her. How cold SHE feels like. I think she is not what she looks like." she explained. "So will you help me get to the bottom of this?" The young guard was still uncertain.

"Merida, I don't know. Is the Queen aware of your little adventure?" he asked nervously. Merida shook her head.

"She said she wants me to lay off of her, but I know she is bad news. You believe me right?" she asked. Ian didn't know how to reply. She wanted to help Merida, but he didn't know whether or not his intuition was correct. And if not and he helped her plotting against the royal guest of Dun'broch, he could get in serious trouble with the King and Queen. Then again, he did notice all the things that Merida just pointed out. Maybe she was right, but he was still on the fence.

"What do you want to do?" he asked. Maybe listening to what she had in mind would make it easier to make a decision.

"I want to follow her. She is leaving with one of her soldiers, she must be planning something. And if you come with me and we catch her, I would even have a witness." Merida said with new found confidence.

"So you want us to spy on her?" Ian asked. The princess nodded. Ian thought it over. If they weren't caught, then maybe he could get away with it and maybe they will even find out that Merida is worrying over nothing and Elsa's intentions are sincere. He knew the princess well enough to know that she will not be content until she sees it for herself, so he decided to go along.

"Alright." he said, causing Merida to smile.

"Thanks, Ian. I knew I could count on you."

"Think nothing of it. I know you won't calm down until you get to the bottom of this." he said, making the princess roll her eyes. "Now, let's head out, shall we?" Merida nodded and the two ventured out to find out the truth about this mysterious Queen Elsa.

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Elsa couldn't help but wonder whose bright idea it was to build that damn town where her men were being accommodated so far from the castle. The castle couldn't offer enough room for all her soldiers, so they had to stay there for the time of her visit. She didn't want to put them through that torture of having to spend three nights on the ships.

Her attire wasn't exactly made for walking through the forest and that was only a minor problem, since unlike most royalties, Elsa never minded to get her hands dirty, but she was starting to get tired and seeing as the town was next to the hill the castle was on, the way back will be even more tiring. She was half tempted to just take a room at a hotel and spend the night there.

Thankfully however, the town was now in sight. Nero stopped and turned to her.

"Your Majesty, I hope you forgive me, but the only place I could gather all the men was the local pub. I know it is unfitting for you, but..." Elsa held her hand up.

"Never mind. As long as there won't be anyone listening. We don't need anyone spying."

"No, Your Majesty. I paid the owner to give it to us for tonight and for him to go home. I will also set guards in front of the inn. No one will interrupt you."

"Excellent. Show me the way." The captain slightly sighed in relief upon hearing her reply, glad that he could satisfy his queen.

"Of course, your majesty. This way please." Elsa just nodded and followed the man. The slight smile on her face was a vain effort to hide her disgust at her captain's sickeningly sweet tone. She knew Nero was an opportunist and probably would abandon her in less than a second if someone promised him greater power than he could get under her. The only reason Elsa choose him for the job is because she knew he was willing to take on jobs that required some... dare she say it, malevolent intentions. And while the guards were all loyal to her, she doubted that many of them would be willing to do some works she gave them. In a way, he was just like her interest ally, Hans, but to the prince's credit, at least he didn't make it a secret. Elsa knew Nero's true nature, and yet he acted like he was her most loyal subject. Frankly, it started to worry her. She would have to get Hans to watch him in the future. Or maybe Anna.

But no. That wouldn't work. She knew her sister all too well. She would never approve of her plans let alone take part in them. She was too pure and as far as Elsa was concerned, that was her greatest flaw. It was sad, really. She would have liked it if her sister was at her side as she became the greatest queen of the history of Arendelle. There was no one else she would have shared the glory with. But on the other hand, it was her destiny to fulfill. Not her sister's, not anyone else's.

By the time the two made it to the pub, the two guards that Nero charged with keeping everyone who would possibly interrupt the meeting were already in their place. When they saw Elsa, they both bowed deeply.

"Rise." Elsa ordered and the two soldiers did as they were told. "Please repeat the orders you were given by Captain Nero." She shot a quick, narrow eyed stare at Nero. "_Word_ to _word._" The soldiers gulped at her chilly tone. Not wishing to risk their queen's anger.

"Stand guard before the entrance of the pub and don't let anyone enter." One of them replied quickly.

"Was that all?" Elsa asked, her tone softer now.

"Yes, your majesty." Both of them answered together.

"Good." Elsa concluded the discussion. At least the rest her soldiers knew their places. She was about to enter. One of the guards reached to open the door for her, but Elsa stopped him. "That won't be necessary." she said, then opened the door herself. She did not like it when people treated her like a spoiled, arrogant royalist snob. She may be a queen, but she hated these formalities. _'Just like Merida.'_ That thought made her stop for a second. Was there actually something common between her and Meirda? She could barely keep herself from shuddering at the thought.

Inside, her soldiers " they could have been around sixty in numbers " were standing. She looked over them. On each side of the pub, there were twenty of them and since the building was a little bit larger than usual pubs, twenty of them were watching from an upper floor. As Elsa entered, all of them respectfully lowered on their knees. The young Queen just kept walking towards the center of the room without looking at any of them.

Once she arrived to the spot she could see the whole room, she turned towards them and told them to rise, which they did. With a cough to clear her throat, she began.

"Good evening to you all. It has come to my attention that some of you are in quite low spirits because of this trip. Is that true?" At first, none of the soldiers dared to speak. They did not know whether or not should they bother their queen with such a simple thing. This whole meeting was Nero's idea to begin with. And that didn't do much to raise their spirits. But after a few seconds, one of them did spoke up.

"Y-yes, your majesty." he faltered nervously, causing Elsa " and everyone else in the room to look at him. Elsa decided to encourage him a little.

"Speak your mind." she said on the kindest tone and the warmest smile she could manage.

"Well... We don't see why did you bring so many of us for a simple diplomatic visit. I mean, if the people of Dun'broch did not know any better, they would think we are planning some kind of coup. And we see the looks the townspeople give us. They do not like arrendalians. Certainly not military." he confessed, a little scared as to how the queen would react. Elsa however didn't even lessen her smile. She spoke reassuringly.

"I understand your concern. But rest assured, your presence here is greatly needed." the soldiers were confused by this.

"How so, Your Majesty?" another soldier asked.

"Keep in mind, gentlemen, that I may be a Queen, bu I am also still a very young woman. Also, I am a very reclusive and very shy woman and your presence makes me feel at ease. Protected. Safe. And that helps me focus on the task I have at hand." she told them. She realized that she maybe showing weakness in front of her own men, but if someone would try to exploit this "weakness", she would show him just how strong she really is. "And once the deal with Dun'broch is successful, the perspective of this kingdom's people on us will change entirely."

"What is your plan, my lady?"

Elsa's smile widened. "That is quite simple. Just listen to me..."

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"Why would she come down here so late? And to a pub, that's strange!" Ian explained, as he and Merida saw Elsa from the distance entering the pub,

"I told you, this woman is not alright!" came the reply from the princess. "Come on, now is our chance to find proof against her." Merida took off into the direction of the pub and would have no doubt marched straight in, but Ian grabbed her arm and pulled her back.

"Careful!" he hissed quietly "Don't you see those guards guarding the door?"

"Yeah, so? I am the princess! I have the authority to go in there, whatever they're doing!" she exclaimed. Ian pulled her back a little more, not wanting to get the guards to hear them.

"And your mother is the Queen!" he shot back. "If she finds out we came down here, you'll get in a world of trouble and I'll probably get booted from the militia!" Normally, Merida would have been fine with getting herself in trouble with her mother, but seeing as she could also get her friend in trouble, she decided to agree.

"Fine. So what do you suggest we do?"

"Let's just stay discrete, okay?" though he knew the princess will have trouble with trying. "Let's find a another way of getting in." he looked around and saw a window which was unguarded. Though it was a little higher above the ground than a usual window, but if Merida stood up on his shoulders, she could peek in. "There. Come." he motioned for Merida to follow him.

They moved carefully to avoid being discovered by the guards, fortunately, they didn't even move from the door. They reached the window and Ian lowered to one knee to help Merida up. He put his hands together and Merida put his foot into them so Ian could push her up to the window, and once he did, she quickly placed both of her feet to his shoulders.

"You lost weight, princess?" he joked, honestly surprised at how light she was.

"Shut up!" she snapped back, before turning her attention to the group of people inside. Her eyes widened. Elsa had gathered her all her soldiers she brought with her and she is currently giving a speech to them.

"What do you see?" Ian asked.

"When I get back to the castle, I will have a nice, long talk with your superiors." Merida replied. "This woman has like a batallion of soldiers with her. What were you thinking letting them in?"

"She has made it clear that Arendalle means Dun'broch no harm. If she would try anything, she would break the agreement between our nations and make herself look really bad in the eyes of the rest of the monarch around. As a young Queen who just got crowned, we didn't think she would risk that." Merida saw the reason in her friend's explanation, but that didn't mean she agreed with him. She turned her gaze back at Elsa.

"What are you up to?" she whispered to herself. She knew she probably missed the beginning of her speech, but the most interesting part was probably still yet to come. She leaned a little closer to the window to hear what she is saying.

"If it makes you feel any better, I will assure Queen Elinor that not only are we here without any ill will towards the kingdom, but we will also help with any threats that may arise in the time we are here." she told the men., surprising Merida. That was not what she imagined she was telling them. "I told them that the Royal Guards of Arendelle means no harm for this kingdom, and I am going to keep my word. However," that part got Merida's attention. So she was hiding something after all. "I have a feeling that something unfortunate may happen. This kingdom has people, hostile people who have a big, BIG interest in it. And they will take every opportunity to strike." The way she said that didn't feel right. She sounded so certain, so knowing that Merida thought she may know something that she wasn't telling them. As if she knew that something was going to happen. "And should that happen, we will stand by our Scottish friends and we are going to assure them that my reign will be a completely new era for both kingdoms." She paused and looked over her men to make sure they all understood. They seemed to be happier than when Elsa entered. Satisfied, she continued. "No more animosity, no more wars and no differences." This caused some faces to go confused. "The two kingdoms are going to fight together... as one." This had the desired effect on them. Her man broke out in cheers, bringing a smile to her face. It was clear that she had their utmost faith and support. She felt a rather unusual feeling in her guts. Warmth. Basking in the admiration of her subjects had that effect on her. It was really nice.

As she looked over the cheering men, she saw something out of the corner of her eyes. She saw the window before, but that small shadow outside was not there until now. She looked up and she instantly recognized the head of the figure that was watching her. And she had noticed her too. For a few moments they have had eye contact. Elsa's blue eyes narrowed and that caused Merida's blood to freeze. Her cover has been blown. She saw her, she knew she was there, and if looks could kill, the princess would be a pile of dust by now. But her look froze, and Merida felt the chilling cold enter her very soul. Suddenly, all her courage has left her. She had to get out of there.

"Let's get out of here!" she said, doing very little to keep the panic out of her voice.

"What?" Ian was confused at her tone. What has gotten into her?

"We have to leave! Now!" she shouted as she tried to jump off of her friend's shoulder, but Ian's grip on her legs was tighter than she thought. Her effort ended up with both of them on the ground. Needless to say, it hurt Merida more.

"Who is there?" they heard someone say. Their eyes widened. The guards from the door have heard them. What were they going to do now?

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"Thank you. Thank you." Elsa tried to calm the guards down, but it turns out she was doing a better job at cheering them up, then she thought. But now she had something else to deal with. "Well, for the rest of the night, feel free to use this place as you see fit! When the owner asks about it tomorrow, tell him that I will personally cover his losses!" That also did the trick. Elsa smiled to herself. She found it amusing how such a simple thing as drinking had such a huge effect on most people. "And now if you excuse me, I will take my leave." She started to make her way out and when she saw Nero going after her she held up her hand signaling for him to stay. Nero didn't quite understand, but he's not going to complain about being dismissed for the day. He gladly joined the party.

Once outside, Elsa walked to the window where she saw Merida and found the two guards who were guarding the door struggling to keep Merida and Ian restrained by putting their hands behind their backs and forcing them onto their knees.

"What is the meaning of this?" Elsa demanded, making all of them stop. After a few moments of silence, the soldier who was keeping Ian down kicked him.

"Answer the Queen!"

"Actually, I was asking you two." Elsa said as she crossed her arms and glared at them. The two soldiers nervously looked at each other, before one of them answered.

"We found them out here, your majesty. They were spying on the meeting." Elsa looked at him, her glare did not lose from its hardness.

"The two persons you are holding down right now are the Princess of Dun'broch and a member of the militia." she told them. The soldiers did not know whether to be afraid of the fact that they angered their queen, or that they have harassed the princess, but they didn't let them go yet. "If you don't want Queen Elinor to hear about this, you are going to let them go and head inside."

"But your majesty..." At their protests, Elsa narrowed her eyes at them and they immediately let go of them and bowed to her. "Yes, my lady." They started to head inside, but one of them turned around. "Wait, Queen Elsa. We cannot let you head back to the castle without an escort."

"I have the young man here to give me an escort." Elsa replied, gesturing to Ian. "I can count on you to be my escort, can't I?"

"Of course, my lady." Ian agreed, much to Merida's dismay. "You are dismissed." The soldiers bowed and went inside. Elsa then turned back to the two friends. "Well then, let's head back, shall we?" Ian nodded but Merida just stared at her in fright. She wanted to go back to the castle as soon as possible. But not in her company.

"It-it won't work." she stuttered. Elsa raised an eyebrow.

"I beg your pardon?"

"Your plan. I don't know what you are planning against our kingdom, but it won't work." Merida told her, trying her best to look like she wasn't afraid, but the intense cold still had a effect on her.

"Merida, stop!" Ian interrupted. She was just making a fool out of herself. And him too. "Forgive us, Queen Elsa, she..." Elsa held up her hand to silence him. Merida was probably the only person in the kingdom who saw through her. And if there was one thing Elsa wasn't, it was a liar. She did not deny the truth.

"I know it won't." she said, causing the two to jump in shock. "Because I don't want it to."

If the circumstances were different, Merida would have smiled. She got her. She confessed. She knew this woman was trouble. Ian was just as shocked as his friend. She has been right about Elsa the whole time. But what did she mean by she doesn't want it to work?

"Wha...What do you mean by that?" he asked with narrowing her eyes, trying to match Merida's glare. Elsa just smiled.

"I do have something planned for Dun'broch, but it won't work. That is also part of the plan."

"That doesn't make any goddamn sense!" Merida snapped, her fear being overcome by fury, but Elsa still smiled.

"It does for me. That's all that matters."

"You sound like you are in control of this situation." Merida snarled.

"I am very much so, _princess._" Elsa countered, using Merida's title to annoy her, and seemingly succeeding. "Very much so."

"I think not." Merida said. "Seize her!" she told Ian and he nodded. He pulled out his sword and approached Elsa, who did not make an effort to resist. Merida then put two fingers inside her mouth and whistled. Soon out of seemingly nowhere, her loyal horse, Angus has appeared coming out from within the trees and down the hill. This shocked Ian and Elsa too a little.

"When... how..." Ian started to stutter, but Merida saved her.

"He was following us the whole time from a distance in case if we needed to leave quickly." she explained.

"Nice work." Elsa complimented, causing the two to glare at him.

"A prisoner only speaks when she is spoken to." Merida said than turned to Ian. "Watch her, I'll go back to the castle and bring back some guards."

"Aye." he replied. Meirda rode away and Ian turned back to Elsa, but he was shocked to see that she wasn't there. He looked around and saw her walking up the hill, but into different direction than what Merida rode into.

"Stop!" he yelled, raising his sword as he approached her. Elsa turned back to him, still smiling.

"Don't expect the same amount of kindness from me that I showed you before." she said, her voice almost sounding like a warning. "I don't like people poiting swords at me."

"Don't play games with me!" Ian yelled. "And don't try to escape!" Elsa laughed at this, surprising and frustrating him, but before he could say anything, she spoke.

"You seem to forget that I am in control of this situation, boy. And I am not your prisoner." Ian was furious. She was taunting him, but confusing him at the same time. Did this woman even know kind of situation she was in? She just admitted that she was plotting against the kingdom and yet she was just smiling like she was caught doing a harmless little prank. "Come," Elsa said snapping him out of his thoughts. "let's take a walk."

"Are you serious?" Ian exclaimed, but that didn't seem to bother Elsa. She turned back to him.

"Very serious." she replied, before turning back and walking deeper into the woods. Ian was so cofused at her behaviour that for a few moments he just stood there sumbfounded. But then he realized what he was doing and followed Elsa into the woods.

"Stop right there!" he ran up to her and stopped before her, sword ready in his hand. "Don't do that agian! Don't try to get away! You will stand trial for..." but then Elsa's smile finally disappeared from her face. But it was replaced by something else. A frown.

"Easy with the threats boy." she snarled. "I told you I will not be so kind to you anymore. You have no authority over me!"

"As the guard who has you under arrest, I do. Now shut up and go back to the town!" Ian shouted. He glared at Elsa, but he suddenly noticed something. At first, he did not think he saw it correctly, but it was there. Frost began to appear on the trees. At first he was willing to see the cold as the natural side effect of the night, but that was not normal. Just what the hell was happening here?

"You are afriad." Elsa said. Ian was snapped out of his shock and looked up at her.

"Why the hell would I be afraid?!" he asked, trying to sound more angry than nervous and failing miserably.

"I don't know." The queen replied on a low voice that made Ian tremble. "Tell me." He would have told her, but he just couldn't form the words. Suddenly, Elsa took a step forward, making the young soldier step back in shock, and then he felt a sharp pain in his chest. He looked down and he just could not believe his eyes. He was impaled on an icicle. Sure enough, an icicle stood out from the tree behind him, which he did not see and walked into.

"Dying maybe?" Elsa asked on a monotone voice. "Because you seem like you are."

"You-" Ian tried to use the last of his energy to talk. "You promised you would not hurt Dun'broch."

"I promised that my men would not hurt Dun'broch and intend to keep my word." Elsa replied.

"Then... then wha-what do you... want to do... on your own?" Ian asked as blood began to leak out on his mouth and he felt his energy leave him.

"That, dear boy," Elsa began as she waited for him to breath his last. "is no longer your concern." she finished. She looked at the now lifeless body with an emotionless face. She then raised her left hand and used her index and her middle finger to close his eyes for the last time. "All I say is that winter comes early to Dun'broch this year." She looked up into the direction of the castle and she smiled as she heard a loud, monstrous roar.

****A.N.:** I can't believe I finally managed to update. Sorry for the delay, guys. My finals are though. But part one, the written tests are over. They went really well. Except Math. But I can still improve on my verbal exams at the end of June. :)**

****I** hope you enjoyed this chapter. If you did, make sure to let me know in the form of a review. If you did not, let me know that too, but in the form of constructive criticism. And please don't hate on this chapter, because it was really hard to write. I blocked down many times.**

****Thank you.** This is fanfictionmakermachine, signing off. Tkae care.**

6. Blizzard

****AN:** Hey, guys! Back with a brand new chapter of "Battling the Snowstorm". A chapter I didn't really plan to be honest. I was planning to put this one on hiatus and start to work on another thing I have in mind, but I eventually decided to give it one last try. I have a new " hopefully better summary. My final attempt at making this story look more appealing.**

****Enjoy! :)****

****Chapter 6: Blizzard****

Elsa stood in the middle of the forest, next to the young guard's corpse still impaled on the icicle. But her concerns were elsewhere. Things didn't go according to her plan at all. That little princess has upset her her plans and Elsa hated when things didn't go as planned. But one thing Elsa prided herself in was her ability to turn things in her favour.

Merida probably thought she was panicing at this point. Well, she hated to disappoint the redhead, - Ok, that was a lie. She took immense pleasure from it. - but panicing was a habit which was far

from Elsa. Instead, she quickly came up with an idea to not only keep the princess from ruining her plans, but also entertain her a little.

"Well, Princess Merida, let's see how much can you handle a harsh winter." She said with a smirk as she started to walk into the direction where Merida rode off to. She shall catch up to her eventually. It doesn't matter that Merida was on a horse. She had a little friend of her own to help her handle inconveniences.

Meanwhile, the Princess of Dun'broch was riding towards the castle on Angus. She had no time to waste. Elsa was planning God knows what to Dun'broch and only she knew of it. Even though the Queen of Arendelle was currently under the guardianship of her friend " at least that's what she thought " but she wasn't willing to take any chance.

Suddenly, Angus stopped galloping and came to a halt that surprised the princess so much that she fell off the horse. She wasn't expecting that and she wasn't holding onto the harness and found herself on the ground, moaning in pain.

"Angus, what the..." the redhead looked at her horse angrily, but then she noticed the animal's unease. Angus was seemingly worried, as he paced back and forth, neighed in fright and looked around himself, as if searching for the cause of his bad feeling. Merida stood up from the ground and looked around herself. She knew her horse wasn't exactly the bravest soul in existence, but she knew that there was nothing in that forest that could have frightened him after everything he saw in the past. After a few moments of searching her surroundings without result, she decided to try to calm Angus down. She walked up to him and tried to take the harness into her hands, but to her surprise, Angus just pulled his head away from her as he neighed again, only this time, he did it louder.

"Angus, calm down will you!" Merida snapped at the animal in frustration. "I swear, I'm going to give you away for little kids' entertainment!" After this, the horse turned and ran away, leaving the princess all by herself. Merida just realized that she was all alone in the middle of the forest and it was really dark by now. God only knows what kind of creatures will start hunting soon. Scaring her horse away to walk back by herself was probably not a very good idea. Unfortunately, she realized this too late. "Oh, God. Angus wait! Come back! I didn't mean it!" she yelled after the horse, but the damage was already done. Now she was all alone in the dark forest. Merida knew the forest like the back of her hand and she knew how to take care of herself, but she's never really been outside at this late and to be honest she was a little worried. But realization dawned upon her and she mentally slapped herself.

"Focus, girl! Your kingdom is in danger! Don't tell me you're gonna let trouble strike just because it's dark out here! Only little kids are afraid of the dark!" she thought to herself. And of course, she realized she was right. "But what about Angus?" she suddenly found herself worried over her beloved companion. "Don't worry! He can outrun anything he comes across. And besides, you saw how scared he was. Judging from that, I bet he's already halfway to the castle. Now go! You're running out of time!" She nodded to herself and turned around to make her way to the castle, but she wasn't paying attention

and she ran into something. "Ow!" she yelled in pain as she held her head. She thought that it was only a tree she ran into due to her carelessness and the dark, but since when did trees turn so cold?

Merida looked up and her eyes slowly widened. Before her was a tall wall of ice towering before her and blocking her way. "What on Earth?!" she exclaimed. This clearly wasn't there before, she would have seen it. And what does a wall of ice doing in the middle of the forest in the summer? She shook her head. It didn't matter right now. She will have time to figure it out after she got back to the castle and warned her parents. She was about to walk past by it, but when she tried, she was stopped by another wall of ice growing next to it, seemingly out of the ground. All Merida could do was stare in shock as the two ice walls became one in front of her. She snapped out of her shock and tried to walk past by them again, but the same thing happened. Merida tried to run by them faster, but no matter how many times, how fast she was trying, she always found herself facing an ice wall which grown out from the ground. Before she knew it, she found herself surrounded by a ring of humongous ice wall.

She looked at it in horror. She couldn't imagine what was going on. Just what kind of twisted force was playing a sick prank on her? Eventually, she got her answer. The walls before her opened like a gate. Slowly, almost nerve wreckingly slowly, and she found herself face to face with the supposedly captured Queen Elsa of Arendelle. The platinum haired woman was standing before her, arms folded behind her back, smiling at her with that despicable eyelids-half-closed kind of smile. When Merida saw her, she took a step back in horror.

"You... But... how did you..." a thought suddenly hit her. Her horrified expression turned into one of anger as she tried to pull herself together and hide her fear. Elsa assumed she was trying to look brave in front of her. Or more like intimidating. But she was so easy to read. Her confusion and panic was obvious. Elsa saw it in her eyes. Therefore, her bravado was nothing short of amusing to her. "Where's Ian?" the princess demanded with venom in her voice. Elsa said nothing. Instead, she pulled a piece of the young guard's uniform out from behind her back and threw it to the ground between them. Merida saw the blood on it and the horrible realization that her friend was gone dawned upon her. Her expression of anger slowly turned into one of pain and sorrow. She wanted to scream, she wanted to cry at her tragic loss, but not in front of this woman. She would not give her the satisfaction. Instead, she allowed the grief to turn into rage as her expression darkened and without thinking, she launched herself at Elsa, with the not hidden intention of strangling her.

Elsa however didn't even flinch. Her smile didn't fade one bit. Just before Merida could grab her, she raised her hands and made a pushing motion. The next moment, Merida felt like Mor'du has struck her with all of his might. The princess of Dun'broch flew backwards and found herself slamming into the ice wall behind her and soon after she was on the ground, moaning in pain. She slowly looked up, but she wasn't ready for the sight that awaited her. A massive block of ice was in front of the queen and two blue beams were soaring out of her raised hands that seemed to have made it.

'Ice magic?!' Merida thought in panic. 'Oh, boy. I'm screwed.'

_No. It wasn't enough that she had to deal with her mother turned into a bear, or a magical abomination with the strength of ten men, or the recent death of one of her oldest and closest friends, now she had an ice sorceress of a queen that wanted to mess up her kingdom. _'Why do I constantly have to put up with shit like this?' _she slowly got up, reaching for her bow and quiver she always carried with herself and before Elsa could even blink, she fired an arrow at her. With a flick of her hand, she formed an icicle in the air and shot it towards the princess. Her aiming was so perfect that it sliced the arrow approaching her into two equally divided pieces.

"Fuck!" Merida found herself cursing out loud, as she tried to duck to avoid the deadly piece of ice, but she reacted too late and the icicle pierced the shoulder of her dress to the icy wall. As she struggled to get herself free, she could hear the mocking, sweet laughter of the queen.

"My, my. That is a little inappropriate language for a princess, wouldn't you say?" she said, as she slowly approached her. Merida eventually managed to free herself and she attempted another shoot on Elsa. The queen saw it and used the same trick as before to block it. This time however, Merida counted on this and rolled out of it's way, shooting another arrow at her while running towards her. This slightly surprised Elsa and this time she didn't have time to react to this the same way she did two times before. All she could do now is step aside and let the deadly object fly by her head. This gave Merida the opportunity to take a swing at her with her bow. Elsa grabbed the weapon and pulled on it, using every bit of strength she had to throw the redhead to the ground. Normally, Merida would have been able to resist this, but Elsa took advantage of the force she rushed at her with and was able to send her to the ground. Not only that, but Elsa managed to twist the bow out of her hands.

Though she was now armless, Merida wasted no time getting back to her feet. Elsa took her bow in her hands and the princess was helpless to see that from her palms ice was slowly beginning to spread on her weapon. Eventually, the bow became entirely covered in ice and it shattered in Elsa's hands. She threw the pieces to the ground and looked at Merida, almost challengingly, as if to ask 'What are you going to do now'? Merida narrowed her eyes. _'Guess I'll have to improvise.' _She reached into her quiver and pulled out two arrows and she lunged forward, aiming them at the queen's eyes. Elsa used her arms to knock Merida's out of their intended direction and puckered her lips and blew out a breath of air that took the form of an icicle. Merida noticed this in time and ducked, the icicle flew over her face and then she used all of her might to give the sorceress a strong, mighty headbutt right in the face, which sent her to the ground.

Merida quickly wanted to take the chance, because she was certain she wouldn't get any more of them. She threw one of her arrows and firmly gripped the other one with both of her hands and raised it high to give Elsa the finishing blow. Elsa used one of her hands to grab her face, using her powers to ease the pain and she used the other one create an ice shield that she held up to block Merida's arrow. She managed to block the strike and then she fired an ice beam from her hand that sent the shield forward, knocking the princess several meters away from her. The two woman got back to their feet the same time. Merida was glaring at Elsa with the fires of hell in her eyes

and even Elsa didn't look so amused anymore.

_'Alright. Enough playing around.' _the queen thought to herself. She raised her left leg and stomped on the ground. From the spot her leg hit a thin layer of snow appeared. Soon, the entire area that was surrounded by the ice ring was covered in snow. Merida knew better than to be surprised by now. She only wondered what she had in mind now. She got her answer soon, but when she did, she wished she hadn't.

From the snow on the ground, snowy figures started slowly emerging, which eventually took the form of skeletons with icy spikes standing out from their shoulders. Elsa then fired another icy beam at them, which gave them ice made tunics with the Arendelle symbol on their chest, helmets and boots and ice swords and shields. The snow soldiers' eyes started to glow blue and they started moving. Merida stared in horror as they all set their glances at her. They adopted battle stances and got ready to charge at the princess. Elsa, seemingly satisfied with her work, turned around and with a flick of her hand, she created herself an ice throne and sat down on it to enjoy the show.

Merida looked at the eight terrifying figures in front of her, unsure of what to do. As she started to think of a solution, her inner voice spoke again. _'Move already! If you just stand there and do nothing, you'll die!_' _Though she was outnumbered eight-to-one, she managed to think quickly and before they could do anything, the princess moved towards the one that stood the closest to her, earning the element of surprise, which was enough for her to grab the weapon in the creature's hand, step on it's feet and use all of her strength to take the sword out of it's hands. Once she succeeded in disarming her enemy, she used the ice sword to cut off the creature's right leg. Thanks to the princess' fast attack, the creature didn't have time to raise it's shield and block the attack. It lost it's balance and couldn't react to Merida's next swing that took off it's head. The snow soldier collapsed to the ground, it's head landed next to it and the glowing in it's eyes faded. The entity's body then dissolved into snow, signaling it's demise.

Merida quickly grabbed the ice shield the defeated creature dropped. She thought it was weird that the weapons didn't disappear, once the carrier was defeated. She figured it was because they were made of ice and not snow. She picked it up just in time, as two other snow soldiers raised their swords to strike her down. She held the shield in front of her and blocked the two swords. That got her enough time to slice the two creatures into two pieces by their waists. _'Three down, five more to go.'_ Merida acknowledged in satisfaction.

She set her sight on a fourth one and this time she started the attack. She tried to take a swing at it, but it managed to block the attack with it's own sword. Merida heard another one approaching her due to the crackling snow beneath it's feet. She looked up at it and saw it was about to take a swing at her. She raised her shield and blocked it. With no better option, she kicked the one she clashed swords with in the stomach. The armor on his chest cracked slightly, but did not shatter. Merida cursed under her breath. The damn thing was thicker than she expected. She then pulled her arms in, allowing the two creatures closer to her, with their weapons still interacting with her own and then she pushed them away from herself with such a force that it made them stumble back. She then threw her shield at

the one on her left, causing it to fell on the ground. She rushed over to it and stabbed her sword through it's head, killing it.

She picked up the shield and looked up to see the other one rushing at her, with the intention of finally cutting her down. Merida just tightened her grip on the handle of the shield and stood still, waiting for it to reach her. When it did, it swung it's sword at the princess, it was so eager to end her however, that it completely forgot about it's defence, just as Merida predicted. She merely swung the shield at her approaching enemy's head with such a force that the ice helmet broke and the creature's head exploded into snow. _'Never get this carried away, or careless in a fight.' _she scoffed.

The remaining three snow soldiers, seeing how the princess took care of five of them already slowly started comprehend what kind of enemy they were facing. Looks like Elsa did create the with a certain form of intelligence. The three turned back to Elsa, who sat on her throne with a bored expression. Things may not go as well as she hoped for, but she still had a few more trump cards she hasn't played out. The snowy creations looked at her with a questioning stare, as if they were asking her what were they supposed to do. The queen looked over them for a few moments, before sighing and standing up. Upon seeing her starting to walk towards her, Merida immediately entered a battle stance. As Elsa approached her, she passed her creations, who knelt down respectfully. Elsa's reply was to raise her right hand and curve her open hand into a fist, causing her warriors to explode into three bursts of snow. Without even looking at them, Elsa stopped a few meters away from Merida. The two women stared at each other for a while, until Merida broke the silence.

"Is that all you got?" she spat at the queen. Her angry outburst only made Elsa smile.

"Oh, princess," she said on a sickeningly sweet tone. "this was just the opening act." she then raised her left hand, but she didn't take her eyes off of the princess. "Allow me to introduce you to a little friend of mine." she said. "Well... on a second thought, he may not be so little, but you know what I mean." she chuckled. Merida turned into the direction she raised her hand to and saw the ice wall slowly open. She then felt a small quake around her as she heard a small thud. As the walls opened more wider, Merida felt and heard it again and again. She eventually made out a large figure approaching the arena with mighty steps that shook the ground with bigger and bigger force as it came closer. Merida's eyes widened. _'You have got to be kidding me.'_ She turned back to Elsa, horror evident in her eyes, much to the queen's joy.

"What are you?" she asked as she took a few steps back, almost as if trying to cover herself from the other woman. Elsa's smile remained unchanged.

"If I were you, I would worry about him more." the giant finally reached the arena, allowing Merida to take a good look at it. It was around five or six meters tall, it's body made of snow with icy spikes growing out of it's shoulders and it's face crudely resembled human skull with glowing blue eyes.

"Princess Merida." Elsa began. "I am delighted to introuce..." she stopped and put her forefinger to her chin. "Well, I haven't really

named him yet. I think he looks like a... brute? Well, sure, he does, but what kind of a name would that be? How about... Brutus? Yes, that does sound much better."

The giant looked at the queen, awaiting the orders from his creator. Elsa's face suddenly lost all of it's cheerfulness and turned to Merida with a stone cold expression. "Thank you for entertaining me tonight, princess, but I'm afraid entertainment is over for the night. Squash her!" she ordered. The giant immediately obeyed and turned to Merida with a monstrous roar. Merida had to hide behind her shield to avoid the small snowstorm that came out of the creature's mouth. When that died down, the princess began brainstorming. _'How do I find this thing's weak point?'. _She raised the sword and shield as she and the creature began to circle around each other. Elsa raised her finger.

"Uh, uh, uh." she said, waving it. "Those weapons weren't even yours to begin with." she snapped her fingers and the ice weapons in her hand melted into nothing. Merida fumed. _'If I survive this, I'll kill the bitch. Painfully.' _

The giant raised it's humongous fist and brought it down. Merida could only avoid it by rolling out of it's way. She couldn't get back to her feet immediately as she was getting tired. Instead, she ended up on her back, panting. She was tired, hurt and armless. How was she supposed to get out of this mess? She opened her eyes and saw the ice wall which was surrounding the arena, preventing her from escaping. Suddenly, Merida's eyes shot wide open as an idea hit her. This wall was merely taller than the behemoth Elsa summoned. If she could... Merida's lips curled up into a smile. First good idea of the day. She used her remaining strength to get up and look up at the giant. This would better work. "Alright, ugly! You want me? Here I am!"

The giant seemed confused at this, and so did Elsa. She raised an eyebrow. _'What is she up to now?' _The giant narrowed it's eyes and raised it's fist again. "Come on..." Merida muttered to herself. Whatever prayer did she say, it was answered. The creature struck down once again and once again, it missed. _'Now!'_ Merida stepped on the creature's hand and ran up on it's extended arm. Before it could do anything to shake her off, Merida jumped up to the top of it's head and from there, she jumped towards the wall. Elsa was utterly dumbstruck at the sight. Merida managed to reach the top of the wall, grabbed onto it and threw herself over it.

After the princess' little stunt, Elsa finally snapped out of her shock and used her powers to slam the wall Merida threw herself over to the ground. She then walked up to it to see if she was successful in getting her, but from the lack of blood leaking out from under the wall, it seemed she didn't. She made the wall disappear and her suspicions were proven correct. The bloody pulp that was supposed to be Merida wasn't there. She had gotten away. Elsa clenched her fists so hard they were shaking. The snow giant she created must have sensed her anger too, because it slowly crawled backwards, fearing it's creator's wrath. Elsa turned to it. "She is out there somewhere." she snarled. "Whatever happens. Don't let her get back to the castle! Is that clear?" The creature could only nod and it stomped away to find the princess, leaving Elsa alone.

Things still didn't go according to her plan. She had a backup plan, but that had to wait until tomorrow. Her royal guards will probably

wake up with a massive hangover tomorrow morning and even though she could summon an army of snow golems, only they could help her with this one. With anger filling her entire being, she summoned herself a horse made of snow and hopped on it. At this late, she didn't want to walk all the way back. Shooting one last glare at the surrounding wilderness, she made the snow animal start heading to the castle. Meanwhile on a different part of the forest, Princess Merida was making her way towards a place that she didn't like to visit, but right now, it seemed like the obvious solution. She had some questions, and she knew just the person who could answer them.

****AN: Wow! I wrote my first fight scene! How was it? I always thought I was bad with fight scenes, but you tell me.****

****As always, guys, remember, Reviews make me happy! :) This is fanfictionmakermachine, signing off. Peace!****

7. The Calm Between Two Storms

****AN: Hey, guys! Sorry for the delay. University stuff, and then I just couldn't focus on the writing due to my excitement for Batman V Superman! I'm not happy with the treatment this movie gets from critics and internet reviewers. Sure it had flaws, but it was still an awesome movie. Especially loved for Wonder Woman! I couldn't relate to people who crush on superheroes until now.****

****Sorry guys, no fights in this one. And it's a little shorter than usual. I'll try to make the next one longer.****

****Happy reading! :)****

Even with the significant distance she already earned, Merida could still feel and hear the thuds of the snow giant's footsteps behind her. The princess was using every bit of her remained energy to get as far from the monstrosity as she could, but soon she had to realize that it would be hopeless to outrun it. Fortunately, as it was stated before, Merida knew this forest like the back of her hand. An advantage that her enemy surely didn't have. So she found evading it through the bushes and smaller trees. Being smaller than your opponent had it's perks.

Eventually Merida realized that she was in a part of the forest that was hidden well enough to hide from the beast. For that she was glad, but there were still a few problems. First, she was out at night and some of the most vicious predators have started roaming the woods by now. And thanks to Elsa, she had no weapon she could defend herself with. Secondly, she was the only one who know of Elsa preparing for something against her kingdom and she couldn't go back to stop her at the moment. She was stuck here. At this point, most people would have probably given up, but Merida was different. She was a born survival and ready to take on any obstacle that has gotten in her way. And besides, she faced Mor'du before, so nothing in this forest could possibly scare her anymore.

_'Are you really going to make an example for yourself from that?' _her inner voice told her. _'Please, if anything, it was your mom who defeated Mor'du, while you were covering and screaming like a little girl.'_ Merida clenched her fist at her thoughts. These thoughts angered her, irritated her and hurt her, but not because they were

hurting, but because they were true. She did absolutely nothing to be proud about a year earlier when they faced the demon bear. And now a literal ice queen is threatening her kingdom. If she can't beat a bear, how will she beat someone who can summon an army of ice warriors out of thin air?

But the witch? She can surely help her. She can do something magical that will counter Elsa's ice magic to give her the edge to defeat her. Though the most she would be able to do is turning her into a bear which she seemed to be grandiose at. Well, that would no doubt help her chances. Especially with her father being King Fergus, the greatest bear slayer who ever lived. And she would have no reason to stop him this time. Merida then shook her head while mentally slapping herself. The scenario was humorous to imagine, but this was no time for jokes. She would have to come up with a really useful plan. But as the minutes passed by, she still had no idea what to do, and this was frustrating. It was so frustrating in fact, that the princess ended up giving out a let a yell out her frustration and slam her fists against the nearest tree.

Losing all her hope, Merida sat down in next to the tree as one thought came after another. She can't do it. There was no way she was a true match for this woman. She might as well wake up and face reality: She is not a fierce warrior who can just ride into danger on the back of Angus, finishing her every enemy with perfectly aimed arrow right between their eyes to save her kingdom from any enemy that arises. She was just a rebellious girl with big dreams. Dreams that were not meant to come true. She was just the princess. And a pretty bad one at that. The most she can do is get back to the castle to be with her family in the time of need. They needed her now more than ever. And she needed them as well.

Merida's quiet, sorrowful moment was suddenly interrupted by a sound in the distance. She immediately got up from the ground with raised fists, as those were her only usable weapons at the moment, but she saw nothing. Another noise suddenly arrived as Merida found herself circling in one place, looking for the potential attacker to no avail.

"Stop hiding, coward! Show yourself!" she cried, only to realize that it was probably pointless, since it was most likely just an animal. Well, she was mostly right about that.

"Is this how to greet someone who wants to help you?" Merida heard from behind herself. The princess jumped, letting out a startled cry as she turned around so suddenly she ended up on the ground. Looking up, she saw a black bird on the branch of the tree she was leaning against earlier. It didn't take long for Merida to figure out that this was the witch's crow.

"Would you please stop doing that?!" The girl screamed at the animal, recalling that it wasn't the first time it startled her.

"Well, sorry for not waiting for you with flowers and chocolate, princess, but we have a very urgent matter to attend to." The crow said. "My master sent me out to find you. We need you at the cottage with no delay!"

"I don't have time for you two right now!" Merida shouted. "There is an ice witch running around the kingdom and she sent a snow behemoth

to kill me! I have to..." Before she could continue, the crow flew at her and ripped a piece out of her hair. "OW!" she yelled in pain. "What was that for?!"

"To silence you and to make you listen!" the bird said after flying back to the branch and spitting out her hair. "Yuck! Have you been washing your hair lately?" Merida clenched her fists, but restrained herself. She had enough fighting for one day.

"Just tell me what do you want!"

"Weren't you listening?" The bird snapped, making Merida jump in surprise. "I have to take you to her! And before you start ranting again, she wants to help you with your little problem!" Merida raised her eyebrow in interest. She just had been thinking about this a minute ago, but just like then she had her doubts.

"Well, she hasn't been that much of a help to me last time! What will she do? Turn me into a bear and have me strike her down, or turn 'her' into a bear so we can have another hunt around the castle?" The crow wasn't amused. It flew off the branch and ripped another piece of the princess' hair out. "OW! Stop that, will you?!"

"No, honey! You stop unless you wanna end up bald. Now will you get moving at last, or do I have to make you follow the red hair road?" Merida didn't expect a crow to be this persistent or threatening. She wouldn't admit it, but she was starting to get uncomfortable around the animal. Still, she'd try to keep it hidden.

"Alright, alright! But I better get back before she could do anything to my family!" Merida was worried for them, but she knew they wouldn't be in grave danger. Elsa needs to keep up the good image of herself in front of the people, which she couldn't achieve if she hurt the royal family.

"Good. Follow me!" The crow told her as it took off into the direction of the witch's cottage. The princess followed, hoping she wouldn't end up regretting this.

* * *

><p>Elsa knew she won't get any sleep that night. It wasn't the first time, but that didn't mean she had to like it. She mentally slapped herself for thinking that way. 'Pull yourself together! You're a queen! That doesn't only mean luxuries! You have to work!'

Merida. Elsa frowned in distaste as that name came to her. She heard about the princess being by far the most troublesome member of the royal family of Dun'broch, but she didn't expect this! She got caught and almost revealed by the girl. She would have to stay cautious for the rest of the night in case she does manage to come back. If that happens, she will have to confront her before she reaches her mother. From then, she can easily fix the situation.

As she finally reached the room she was staying in, thankfully, without encountering anybody, she immediately headed to the bed and threw herself on it. Her every muscle ached. The amount of her

magical powers she used today, combined with the journey to the village and back left her exhausted. She still wasn't fully aware of the extent of her powers and truth be told, she wasn't sure if she ever will be. Still, they weren't acting like they had a mind on their own anymore, which was good.

Elsa eventually learned to keep her powers under control, by embracing them and letting go of her fear of them. But unfortunately, that didn't convince her parents. The fear in their hearts were too big and Elsa thought they will never be able to rid themselves from it. In a twisted way, their deaths brought a positive change in Elsa's life. She felt guilty for thinking this way, but it was true. From that day on, Elsa's life was hers to live the way she wanted to. She would be able to finally govern her kingdom in a way that brought it more good than just keeping her powers in bay.

Elsa was grateful to her parents for doing their absolute best to help her control it, but the fear from it cost them their time and ability to rule the kingdom and if Elsa was brutally honest with herself, their sanity. Elsa felt tears forming in her eyes. It was wrong to feel this way, but their deaths were ultimately for the better of the kingdom. And this was the truth. Elsa looked up at the ceiling and sighed. _'I'm sorry.' _She thought. _'But as Queen, my duty is to the Kingdom of Arendelle first and foremost. Nothing can be a bigger priority. Not even family.' _

With that, Elsa stood up from her bed and walked to her cabinet from which she pulled out the wine bottle from before. "I need a drink." she sighed as she also pulled out a glass to pour the drink into. When she stood up, she saw something in the mirror on top the cabinet that nearly made her drop the glass. If Elsa wouldn't know any better, she would think she is starting to lose her grip on reality as well. But thankfully, she knew better from the plenty of messed up things she have witnessed in her life "not all suitable for a little girl's eyes. So she knew that what she was seeing in front of herself was real. At least, to some extent. Eventually realization struck her that why stare at the mirror, when she could just turn around and see them for herself. She did, and sure enough, she was staring at King Agdar and Queen Idun, former rulers of Arendelle and her parents.

Elsa was staring at them with a blank expression, and after a few seconds, the only thing she could say was, "On a second thought, I think I've had enough for today." she said as she side glanced at the wine bottle and put it down. She then walked up to the two figures, cautiously looking them over. When she reached them, she raised her arm and slowly pushed it towards his father. Just as she expected, her arm went straight through him.

"Didn't I have enough for today?" She asked, shaking her head. The stoic face of his father finally broke the silence.

"Elsa." he started, almost scoldingly. "What are you doing? This is..." Elsa then held up a hand to interrupt him.

"I know what you're going to say and I'm gonna stop you right there. No, this isn't getting out of hand. In fact, I have it in my hand now more than ever. The fact that you could never see it isn't my fault." she said with disdain. Her father frowned, her mother just stared at her with a sad expression.

"You bring shame to Arendelle." Agdar shook his head. Elsa actually found herself laughing at this.

"Shame to Arendelle? By doing what our ancestos couldn't do and fulfilling the prophecy made by the greatest person in Arendelle history? No father. I will bring this kingdom the glory it always deserved but could never accomplish. Arendelle will finally take it's place as one of the dominant powers in the world. And what's it to you anyway? You two are dead. Shouldn't you be like... up there, floating on clouds or something?" She finished mockingly.

"We have made mistakes in our lives, Elsa." Idun spoke for the first time.

'The biggest understatement in the history of Arendelle.' Elsa thought.

"And we cannot find rest until those mistakes are corrected."

"Oh, don't you worry about that mother." Elsa smiled. "I am already working on that. Unless..." Elsa's smile faded and turns into an angry scowl. "...unless you believe I am that mistake that needs to be corrected."

"Elsa, don't talk like that!" Agdar tried to reassure, but Elsa wouldn't let him have it.

"Don't you tell me how to talk!" she snapped at him. "I am an adult, I am the queen and you are dead! Two of these three facts say I can talk however I damn well please! If the only reason you're here is to lecture me, than thanks for dropping by, but I will be fine by myself!" She then glared at them for several seconds, before she turned away from them and buried her face into her palm. "What am I even doing? I'm arguing with ghosts about how to rule the kingdom! Another thing to add to my list of "Things I never thought would happen to me." Why don't you go pay a visit to Anna? I'm sure she will be delighted to see you!"

"Our business in the realm of the living mostly concerns you, Elsa." Agdar spoke, before his features softened a bit. "We made the most mistakes with raising you."

"You bet you did!" Elsa snapped. "But if I have to change anything in my plans for the future so you can finally go to heaven, well sorry, but I worked too much on them to just stop! So, can you please come back another time? I had a lot of troubles today and I'm not really in the mood for this." Elsa had to admit, after ten years of suffering from her parents mistakes, it felt good to be in the dominant role now. Her parents eventually had to admit that there was no reasoning their daughter at the moment. The best they could do was leave. For now.

"We are not finished with this conversation, Elsa." Her father said as he slowly faded away. Elsa then turned to her mother and gave her a look that clearly said, "Well aren't you going after him?" Idun just shook her head with a disappointed look.

"I will be praying for you." She said softly, before disappearing as well. Elsa just looked up and groaned. She raised her hand to her

face to rub the bridge of her nose.

"Ok, change of plans. I knew I said no sleep tonight, but after this, I will need it." She then used her powers to change into a nightgown in a few seconds and got into her bed. Brutus will be taking care of Merida. As for her, due to the events of the day, she was asleep faster than she changed into her nightgown.

* * *

><p>"I don't remember it being this far!" Merida complained.<p>

DONG

"OW! Ok, ok!" she said, rubbing her head with a groan. Ok, maybe she was a little cranky tonight, but can you blame her? In just an hour, one of her close friends died, she had to tear through a group of snow monsters, nearly got flattened by a bigger one and this damn crow was ripping out her hair. She was officially having a rotten day.

"We have to take the longer way to avoid that beast you fought back there!" The bird said. "Besides, we're here!"

Merida had trouble looking up to see if the crow's words were true, due to being absolutely exhausted, but when she did, she saw it was right. They have indeed arrived to the Witch's cottage. But what really got her attention was the black animal that stood next to it.

"Angus!" Merida exclaimed, as her exhaustion completely disappeared. The horse noticed her too as it ran up to it's owner who hugged it's head tightly. "I'm so happy you're alright! I'm sorry I said I will sell you as a pony. I only said it in my anger. Do you forgive me?" The horse bobbed it's head up and down which Merida took for a yes.

"Sorry to interrupt this heartwarming reunion, but we have business to attend to." The crow said as it landed on Angus' saddle. Merida nodded.

"Right." she said with a sigh as she stared at the door of the cottage. "I really hope she can help." She said to herself, before going to open the door. On the inside, she saw the old woman, but she wasn't working on something magical like Merida expected. Instead, she was casually carving another of her woody bears, humming a happy tone. Merida shot her an unamused look.

"Seriously?" this caused the witch to look up at her.

"Ah, dear! You're here!" she cheerfully exclaimed. "Great! We can finally get started!" she hopped up from her seat and walked out to the others and the door slammed behind her. She then noticed Merida staring at her. "What? Just because the kingdom is in great danger doesn't mean the business can stop!" She snapped her finger and reentered into her house, this time into her magical lair. "Come on, dear!" she ushered Merida. "Come on, we have a lot to take care of!" Merida rolled her eyes, but followed the witch.

Inside, the witch's cauldron was boiling with great intensity, which was the first to capture Merida's attention, Whatever she was working on right now, it was big.

"I was afraid this would happen." The witch spoke. "This is exactly what I was afraid of. But don't worry dear! I know just what do you need." She then snapped her fingers and the next thing Merida knew was that she felt immense pain on her head. Again.

"OW! Now what did I do?!" she snapped at the crow who have taken another piece of her hair. The bird landed on the edge of the cauldron and dripped her hair in it.

"Nothing. We just need this for the spell. And I enjoyed it." Merida glared at the animal. _'Well, at least someone is having a good time tonight!_' she thought.

"Perfect! Now have everything we need!" The witch announced happily, before the cauldron started to glow with an intense red light. "Uh, you might wanna cover your eyes." Merida did so, remembering the last time the witch casted a spell in her presence. After a big and rather hot explosion of magic, Merida took her hand off her face and saw the witch already grabbed her tool to take out something from the cauldron. After a few seconds of intense waiting, she pulled out a...

"A glowing, red stone?" Merida asked in confusion. How on Earth is that going to help her defeat Elsa? Will she have to throw it at her head to knock her out? The stone itself was perfectly oval and had an almost blazing aura around it. But what really caught Merida's attention was the fact that the symbol of her clan was visible on the middle of it. The witch looked up at her with perhaps the most serious expression Merida has ever seen on her face.

"This is a Fire Gem." She said. "It can give one person the power to counter winter magic, which I assume you encountered with earlier before."

"How did you..."

"I felt it, dear. I felt it approaching. The prophecy of Arendelle says a ruler who wields this immense power will be Arendelle's uprising. I immediatley knew this was the case this morning. This gem will make you immune to her magic, however her creations can still hurt you. The hair I took from you ensures that the gem works for you and you alone. It has additional advantages, but even I don't know what it's truly capable of. You have to figure it out on your own" she instucted the princess.

Merida carefully observed the stone. Despite the witch giving her a proper instruction this time, she was still nervous. This was exactly the edge she needed against Elsa, but what was the guarantee it wouldn't destroy her as well. This was, as the witch said, a Fire Gem. If it wasn't treated carefully, fire could destroy it's makers as well. But then, Merida felt determination wash over her. She had to do it. Protecting the kingdom was her duty and if she had to die for it, then so be it. Without further thinking, she took the stone into her hand.

Immediatley, she felt unbearable hotness fill her being. As if the

fires would be running through her body. She tried to scream, but she couldn't. She couldn't move a muscle, she couldn't make a sound, she couldn't do anything. All she could do, was pass out on the floor, but instad of darkness, she saw flames. Flames that filled her up. Flames that baceme her.

****AN:** No, Merida will not have fire powers. The gem will have the power. To Merida it will be just a tool to use. I didn't know what do fill the scene between the two Merida scenes with, but I remembered an older idea I had for this story. Let's see if it works out.**

****Thanks for reading it! As always, remember, reviews make me happy!
:) This is fanfictionmakermachin, signing out, peace!****

End
file.